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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SKIPTON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

BY

M. Hunter, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SKIPTON

A N N U A L R E P O R T

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Divisional Health Office,
19a, High Street,

SKIPTON.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information, my Annual Report for the year 1955., and to include as an Appendix a report on the Local Health Authority's services in the West Riding County Council's No.1. Health Division, which covers the urban districts of Silsden, Earby, Barnoldswick and Skipton, and the Skipton Rural District.

The report deals mainly with environmental hygiene which, I venture to suggest, is so well attended to in this country to-day that only when there is an industrial dispute, or a disaster such as widespread flooding, is it borne in on those who do not normally think of such matters that good sanitation, a supply of pure water and food and other similar matters are not part of the natural order of things. Actually, they are highly artificial, and depend on continuous work by trained staffs, and on carefully co-ordinated administrative arrangements. The Appendix gives some account of activities in the field of social medicine, and the progress which is being made. These activities are integrated at various stages and levels with those of your own department, and on an increasing scale.

I am again indebted to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their advice and support during the year, and to the Chief Officers and Staffs of other Departments for the help so willingly given.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

M. HUNTER.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A - STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Area of the Urban District (acres)	...	...	...	...	146,087
Estimated population	...	...	...	...	24,140
Population at 1951 census	...	...	...	...	23,715
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	...	...	...	...	8,367
Rateable Value for General Rate	...	...	...	...	£222,695
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£835.

BIRTHS:

	Total:	Male:	Female:
Live, legitimate	297	157	140
Illegitimate	8	3	5
Total:	305	160	145
Still legitimate	8	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:	8	3	5
Total Births:	313	163	150

BIRTH RATES:

Live Births (per 1,000 estimated population)	...	...	12.63
Still Births (per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	25.55

DEATH RATES:

(crude)

(per 1,000 estimated population).

All causes	...	...	...	...	11.84
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	.04
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	.04
Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1.15
Cancer	...	...	...	...	1.5
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	4.8

Death Rate of Infants under one year
of age.

All infants (per 1,000 live births)	26
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MATERNAL MORTALITY:

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	-
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DEATHS:
Cause of Death.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	-	1
Tuberculosis other	1	-	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	1	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	4	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	7	18
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	23	35	58
Coronary diseases, Angina	26	19	45
Hypertension with heart disease	5	7	12
Other heart diseases	21	21	42
Other Circulatory diseases	6	13	19
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	5	7
Bronchitis	11	8	19
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	-	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	8	15
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	2	5	7
Suicide	1	2	3
Homicide and operations of War	-	-	-
All Causes:	136	150	286

COMMENTARY ON VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS:

The birth rate of 12.63 is lower than the rates for the two preceding years, which were 15.10 and 13.7 respectively.

The rate for England and Wales in 1955 was 15.0.

DEATHS:

The death rate was 11.84 compared with 13.36 and 10.07 in the two preceding years. The rate for the country as a whole was 11.7.

INFANTILE MORTALITY:

The death rate of all infants under one year of age was 26 compared with 24 and 18 in the years preceding. The rate for England and Wales was 25. The still-births per 1,000 live and still-births gave a rate of 25.55 compared with 13.55 in the preceding year, and with a national rate of 23.1.

MATERNAL MORTALITY:

There were no deaths attributable to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

SECTION B.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. GENERAL:

The home nursing, midwifery, health visiting, home help, mental health and ambulance services are provided by the County Council, and described in the Appendix. Reference will also be found there to clinic arrangements, health education, vaccination and immunisation, and the School Health Service.

2. LABORATORY SERVICES:

The Public Health Laboratory at Bradford is that to which most of the specimens of water, milk, ice-cream and other foods are sent for examination. It is also used for pathological specimens, which can be sent by bus in cases of urgency. A very good service is provided, and the Director is always available for consultation.

3. HOSPITAL SERVICES:

Although hospital management committees are, as their name implies, responsible for day to day administration, they are in most respects subordinate to the Regional Hospital Boards of which there are fifteen in England and Wales. Organisation is, therefore, no longer a local matter, and it is perhaps more appropriate to give details on an area rather than a district basis. So far as this part of Yorkshire is concerned, the hospitals admitting the majority of patients are shown on the table overleaf, although the Leeds and Bradford hospitals still take their quota.

In this Division the births in maternity units comprise over 80% of the total births each year, compared with a national average of 64%, and a Ministry of Health recommendation that hospital provision for 50% of births is sufficient. Although it has not been necessary to refuse an application for several years, sentimental and vested interests of various kinds exert a powerful deterrent influence where maternity hospital accommodation appears relatively excessive, and a reduction is suggested. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that one maternity bed less will release enough money for three mental hospital beds, four mental deficiency beds, or three geriatric (i.e. old people's) beds. Accommodation in these categories is always short in this area. The smaller hospitals continue to be handicapped by difficulties associated with the availability of nurses and doctors. This is particularly unfortunate for the Skipton Hospital where extensions have been planned but the scope of the work is decreasing.

Situation	Name	Purpose	Beds
Burley-in-Wharfedale	Scalebor Park	Mental Illness	323
Burnley	Victoria Hosp.	General	168
Burnley	General Hosp.	General	656
Burnley	Marsden "	Infectious Diseases	100
Burnley	Bank Hall Maternity Hosp.	Maternity	51
Colne	Christiana Hartley	Maternity	16
Grassington	Grassington Hospital	Chest Diseases	184
Ilkley	Middleton Hospital	-do-	376
Ilkley	St. Winifred's	Maternity	12
Keighley	Victoria Hospital	General	143
Keighley	St. John's Hospital	Long term sick Maternity	258 34
Keighley	Morton Banks Hospital	Infectious Diseases	72
Menston	Menston Hospital	Mental Illness	2,540
Skipton	General Hospital	General	64
Skipton	Raikeswood Hospital	Long term sick	182
Skipton	Cawder Ghyll	Maternity	18
Settle	Castleberg Hospital	Mental Deficiency	169

4. BLIND PERSONS:

The statutory definition for the purposes of registration as a blind person under the National Assistance Act, 1948, is that the person is "so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is required". Such persons, if aged forty or over can claim a non-contributory old age pension.

Persons who are not blind within the meaning of this Act, but are nevertheless substantially and permanently handicapped by defective vision may be classified as partially sighted, and come within the scope of the welfare services which the local authority are empowered to provide for blind persons, but are not eligible for the special pension. There are 31 blind persons in the district. The Blind Persons Teacher exercises supervision and helps with their problems, and specialist examinations are carried out periodically by an ophthalmologist.

5. WATER SUPPLIES:

Mr. Yeadon, The Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the following information:-

SCHEDULE "A".

Information re quality and quantity from the Council's own undertakings in the year 1st January, 1955 to 31st December, 1955.

<u>Township</u>	<u>Quality of Water.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Appletreewick	Bacteriologically satisfactory, but complaints arise due to presence of iron taken up by the water during its passage through the iron mains.	Sufficient	Efforts have been made to remedy the discolouration of the water by iron by passing the water at the source through limestone chippings. This has been only partially successful and other methods of treatment are under consideration.

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<u>Township</u>	<u>Quality of Water</u>	<u>Quantity of Water</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Beamsley	Satisfactory	Sufficient	Bulk supply from Chatsworth Estates to eight of the thirteen dwellings in the hamlet.
Bradleys Both	Generally Satisfactory	Sufficient	706,280 gallons of water supplied to Farnhill Water Co. through 3" temporary pipeline between August and December.
Buckden	Satisfactory after Chlorination	Sufficient	
Calton	Doubtful Quality	Sufficient	
Coniston Cold	Raw water doubtful, but satisfactory after chlorination	Insufficient	Ministry approval still awaited for scheme to pump water from Gargrave.
Conistone-w-Kilnsey	Doubtful quality	Sufficient	Only two houses in Kilnsey supplied.
Cononley	Satisfactory	Sufficient	
Cowling	Generally satisfactory	Sufficient	
Draughton	Satisfactory	Sufficient	Bulk supply from Skipton U.D.C.
Embsay-w-Eastby	Satisfactory	Sufficient	Bulk supply from Skipton U.D.C.

- continued

<u>Township</u>	<u>Quality of Water</u>	<u>Quantity of Water</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Gargrave	The gravity & Pound sources are satisfactory after chlorination. The Coldwell source requires chlorinating.	Insufficient storage capacity..	Supply augmented during dry periods by pumping from Pound Well & Cold Well, low level supplementary sources. Improvements of the Cold Well source are under consideration.
Glusburn	Generally satisfactory.	Insufficient.	Supply augmented from Cowling during periods of drought. 207,500 galls. of water supplied to Kildwick through 3" temporary pipeline between August & October.
Grassington	Generally satisfactory after chlorination.	Insufficient.	Supply augmented from Brow Well during periods of drought. Pump installed at Grassington Bridge in August to augment supply from Threshfield. Pipeline from Threshfield service tank requires enlarging.
Hartlington.	Satisfactory.	Sufficient at present level of consumption.	The Council has under consideration the installation of an additional hydraulic ram.
Hebden	Doubtful quality.	Insufficient storage capacity.	
Hetton.	Generally satisfactory.	"	
Kettlewell-w- Starbotten	Doubtful quality.	Insufficient.	Restriction notices issued during summer and autumn. Several high level houses in Starbotten have only a poor pressure.
Linton.	Generally satisfactory.	Sufficient.	Supply augmented from Threshfield.

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<u>Township.</u>	<u>Quality of Water.</u>	<u>Quantity of Water.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Rylstone	Satisfactory	Sufficient at present level of consumption	Insufficient storage capacity
Steeton-w- Eastburn	Doubtful quality	Insufficient	Supply augmented from Keighley Borough & Brighton Stream during periods of drought
Sutton	Satisfactory after chlorinat- ion	Insufficient	Supply augmented from Keighley Borough & Burnroyd Well during period of drought.
Thornton	Generally satisfactory	Sufficient	Water is acid and liable to act on metals.
Oughtershaw	Satisfactory after filtration	Sufficient	

SCHEDULE "B"

Bacteriological Examinations and Chemical Analyses of Water
supplies taken in the year 1st January, 1955 to 31st December, 1955.

<u>Township</u>	<u>No. of samples of raw water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>No. of samples of treat- ed water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>Chemical Samples.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Appletree- wick	2	2 Class 1			16	Good organic purity
Beamsley	2	(1 Class 1 (1 Class 3				
Bradleys Both	(Gravity (Supply (15 ((Borehole (Supply 3	(5 Class 1 (1 Class 3 (9 Class 4 3 Class 1				
Buckden	3	(1 Class 2 (2 Class 4	3	(2 Class 3 (1 Class 4		
Calton	(Norcroft (Spring (2 ((Settle (R.D.C. (Supply 1	2 Class 4 1 Class 4				
Coniston Cold	4	4 Class 4	4	(1 Class 1 (2 Class 3 (1 Class 4		
Conistone- w-Kilnsey	3	(2 Class 3 (1 Class 4				
Cononley	(Borehole (Supply (3 (Gravity (Supply 3	3 Class 1 3 Class 1				

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<u>Township.</u>	<u>No. of samples of raw water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>No. of samples of treat- ed water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>Chemical Samples.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Cowling	(Gravity (Supply (14 ((Borehole (Supply 5	(1 Class 1 (4 Class 2 (1 Class 3 (8 Class 4 5 Class 1			11	Good organic purity.
Embsay- w-Eastby	2 5	2 Class 1 (1 Class 2 (4 Class 4				
Gargrave	(Gravity (Supply (2 (Pound (Well (3 (Cold (Well 7	(1 Class 3 (1 Class 4 (2 Class 1 (1 Class 3 (2 Class 1 (4 Class 2 (1 Class 4	5	5 Class 1	7	Good organic quality.
Glusburn	(High (Level (Reservoir (3 (Low Level (Reservoir (3 (Middle (Reservoir (3 (((Borehole (4	(2 Class 2 (1 Class 4 (2 Class 1 (1 Class 2 (1 Class 1 (1 Class 3 (1 Class 4 4 Class 1				

<u>Township</u>	<u>No. of samples of Raw Water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>No. of samples of treat- ed water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>Chemical Samples.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Grassington.	(Gravity 4 (Brow (Well 4	(2 Class 3 (2 Class 4 (3 Class 4 (1 Class 3	4 4	4 Class 1 (1 Class 1 (3 Class 4		
Hartlington	3	(2 Class 1 (1 Class 2				
Hebden	13	(3 Class 1 (1 Class 3 (9 Class 4			1	Good organic purity.
Hetton	3	(1 Class 1 (2 Class 3				
Kettlewell	3	(1 Class 3 (2 Class 4				
Linton	3	(1 Class 1 (2 Class 3				
Starbottan	3	(1 Class 1 (1 Class 2 (1 Class 3				
Steeton-w- Eastburn	(Gravity (Supply 16 (((Brighton Stream 8	(1 Class 1 (2 Class 2 (5 Class 3 (8 Class 4 (1 Class 2 (2 Class 3 (5 Class 4			3	Good organic quality.
Sutton	(Gravity (Supply 9 (Sutton (Mill 4 (Burn- royd (Well 4	(2 Class 2 (7 Class 4 (1 Class 2 (1 Class 3 (2 Class 4 4 Class 4	2	2 Class 1		

- continued -

<u>Township</u>	<u>No. of samples of Raw Water</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>No. of samples of treat- ed Water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>Chemical Samples.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Thornton	2	2 Class 3			4	Good organic Purity
Threshfield (Linton Supply)	4	(1 Class 1 (2 Class 2 (1 Class 4				
Oughtershaw	-	-	2	(1 Class 1 (1 Class 3		

Schedule "C"

Water liable to have plumbo-solvent action and action
taken.

<u>Gargrave</u>	Four chemical analyses made of samples of water collected from the gravity supply - pH 6.4
<u>Thornton</u>	Four chemical analyses made of samples of water collected from the supply - 2 No. pH 6.2 and 2 No. pH 6.4

Schedule "D"

Action taken during year to supplies liable to contamination.

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Precaution.</u>
Buckden	All water chlorinated. The presence of Myxomatosis amongst rabbits necessitated frequent visits to the source of supply, and between 40 - 50 carcasses were removed.
Coniston Cold	All water chlorinated.
Gargrave	Gravity supply and Pound supplementary supply chlorinated.
Glusburn.	Low level supply chlorinated, extra precaution taken when borehole supply is in use. Reservoirs treated frequently with copper sulphate to eliminate growth of algae.

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Kettlewell	The presence of Myxomatosis amongst rabbits necessitated frequent visits to the source of supply and 41 carcasses were removed.
Grassington	Gravity and Brow Well supplementary supply chlorinated
Sutton	Gravity supply chlorinated except when pumping from Burnroyd Well.

SCHEDULE "E".

Properties supplied with water direct to houses by Skipton Rural District Council.

<u>Township</u>	<u>No. of Premises.</u>	<u>Est. Population.</u>
Appletreewick	34	90
Beamsley	8	20
Bradleys Both	193	504
Buckden	35	68
Calton	10	30
Coniston Cold	42	133
Conistone-w-Kilnsey	19	70
Cononley	259	844
Cowling	580	1,728
Draughton	30	90
Embsay-w-Eastby	363	1,160
Gargrave	505	1,100
Glusburn	909	2,428
Grassington	385	1,095
Hartlington	14	60
Hebden	82	237
Hetton	32	90
Kettlewell-w-Starbotten	103	302
Linton	48	373 (includes Linton Camp)
Rylstone	10	24
Steeton-w-Eastburn	872	2,352
Sutton	831	2,260
Thornton	80	250
TOTAL:	<u>5,444</u>	<u>15,308</u>

SCHEDULE "F".

6.

Sewerage.

Parish.

Buckden

Scheme not yet approved by the Ministry.

Starbotten

-do-

Grassington

Extension of sewer to serve smallholdings commenced on Monday, 12th December, 1955.

Sutton

Extension of sewer to serve eight houses at Sutton Fields approved but not yet started.

7. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION:

The measurement of atmospheric pollution is undertaken by the County Council in conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and three types of instrument are located at the Divisional Health Office.

The deposit gauge measures the amount of deposited matter polluting the atmosphere, the lead peroxide instrument the amount of sulphur (SO_2) pollution, and the smoke filter the amount of suspended impurity.

The results of analyses with these instruments are shown in the table overleaf:-

Month	Rainfall in mm.	Total Solids deposited in tons per sq. mile.	Sulphur in mgms. (SO ₃) per 100 sq. cms. per day.	Average daily suspended impurity in mgms. per cubic metre.
January	70	17.99	0.95	33
February	52	10.04	0.59	28
March	59	15.10	0.9	29
April	49	15.3	0.6	No.figs.available.
May	79	14.6	0.6	30
June	62	30.3	0.6	26
July	22	6.6	0.25	26
August	37	17.2	0.25	26
September	65	16.8	0.6	30
October	79	16.4	0.6	39
November	53	12.1	2.1	39
December	74	26.2	2.1	No.figs.available.

In the Annual Report for 1954 reference was made to the Beaver Committee Report and this year a Clean Air Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons which gives effect to its main recommendations. These are briefly:-

- (1) To prohibit the emission of dark smoke from chimneys, railway engines, and vessels, subject to certain qualifications.
- (2) To prohibit the installation of new industrial furnaces unless operated without emitting smoke.
- (3) To require that the emission of grit and dust shall be minimised, and that new industrial furnaces burning pulverised fuel or large quantities of other solid fuel shall be provided with grit-arresting equipment.
- (4) To empower local authorities by order, subject to confirmation by the Minister concerned, to declare "smoke control areas" in which the emission of smoke from chimneys will constitute an offence.

The Bill has, in general, been welcomed, and it shows that public opinion is roused against the harm done by atmospheric pollution to human health and comfort.

8. FOOD HYGIENE:

The latest available figures show that there was a further increase in food poisoning in England and Wales in 1954; the incidents (i.e., outbreaks and sporadic cases) rising by 739 to 6,016. As an outbreak may consist of any number of cases from two upwards, many thousands of people were affected of whom 34 are reported to have died.

It was not always possible to discover the cause of the poisoning, but where investigations were successful three types of bacteria or germ were frequently incriminated. Staphylococci are conveyed to food from the cuts and sores of food handlers, and their transmission to food such as ham and tongue, boiled bacon, pressed meat and brawn, could be prevented by a modified "no touch" technique in handling these potentially dangerous products. Clostridium welchii find their way into meat dishes from the unclean hands of cooks, rarely from the gut of animals killed for food. Cutting out the cooking of meat and gravy in bulk the day before it is eaten, and avoiding the reheating of meat dishes would largely eliminate the risk from these germs. The Salmonella germs of which there is a large variety, are most frequently found in family outbreaks, and sporadic cases, indicating the role of the human carrier, and the importance of personal hygiene. The mass of disease which results, and much goes unreported, is entirely preventable. Our standards are too low, and far too many handlers of food have deplorable standards of hygiene, combining dirty habits with an attitude of indifference.

New powers designed to secure higher standards, are contained in the recently published "Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955", most of which are operative from 1st January, 1956. Although designed to strengthen the hands of local authorities, the public can play an important part in raising these standards by refusing food which they have the least doubt about.

9. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.

These Acts provide for the removal to hospital or other suitable place, of persons suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically handicapped are living in insanitary conditions, being unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons proper care and attention. Under the first Act application for removal is made to a Magistrates' Court; under the second an order can be made by a local Justice of the Peace, and is used in cases of urgency. However, it is only as a last resource that these powers are used, where there is complete lack of home care, and where the individual refuses to go to Hospital or Part III Accommodation, despite every effort being made to persuade them or otherwise provide for them. It was necessary to invoke these powers on two occasions during the year. Two very old ladies were concerned, one of whom was severely burned, but would not go to hospital, the other a recluse with mental deterioration.

10. CREMATION:

Cremation continues to make steady progress in providing a simple, hygienic, reverent and complete method of disposal of the dead. In 1954 there were in Great Britain 125,521 cremations representing 22.2 per cent of the deaths. Crematoria are still comparatively few in number, and they do not serve conveniently every part of the country. Otherwise the figures would undoubtedly be higher.

The Skipton Urban District Council's crematorium was opened on 30th May, 1952 and between that date and the end of 1955 over three thousand cremations have taken place.

The Medical Officer of Health is the medical referee to the Crematorium, assisted by a deputy as required.

SECTION "C".

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1. DIPHTHERIA:

No case has been notified within the district for several years, and although the percentage of children immunised against the disease is higher than the national average, there is still room for improvement.

Further reference to this matter is made in Section 10 of the Appendix.

2. SCARLET FEVER:

During the present century the power of this infection has greatly declined, and it is now a mild disease. Complications are rare, and where conditions are satisfactory the nursing of cases at home is encouraged.

25 cases were notified during the year compared with 46, 24, 20 and 24 in the four preceding years.

3. WHOOPING COUGH:

57 cases were notified compared with 28, 58, 64 and 132 in the preceding years. Other cases may well have occurred and escaped notification because of their mild nature. This sometimes occurs in children who have been immunised against the disease, which has resulted in a considerable degree of immunity, but stopping short of complete protection. Better social and domestic conditions, the smaller size of families, inherited resistance, and diet are no doubt other factors contributing to this improvement.

4. MEASLES:

The ebb and flow of infections is also well illustrated by this disease which, until 1933, was the most deadly of the common infections of childhood. Deaths are now extremely rare, and complications infrequent. As 250 and 232 notifications were received in 1953 and 1952 respectively, and only 8 in 1954, a higher incidence was to be expected in 1955. In fact 351 notifications were received.

5. DYSENTERY:

6 notifications were received of a mild form of this disease, but there is reason to believe that other cases went unreported.

6. POLIOMYELITIS:

There was 1 case, with a mild degree of paralysis, reported in the district. Five others occurred in the Division, of which one was fatal. The fear of this disease is understandable, but when assessing the danger it should be remembered that of all children under fifteen years almost half as many again die from accidents as from all the infective diseases.

7. FOOD POISONING:

10 cases were notified. In addition an outbreak of 26 cases was reported from a Lancashire town in which it was almost certain that the infection was acquired at an hotel in the Dales, where a choir party had lunch one Saturday. Despite thorough investigations, which commenced before noon the next day, it was not possible to discover any infected food, nor any infection amongst the hotel staff.

8. TUBERCULOSIS:

In the report of the Ministry of Health for 1954 it is stated that during that year the deaths from tuberculosis fell to 7,897, being a reduction of 11 per cent on the previous year. Fresh notifications were also reduced to 42,348, a reduction of 9 per cent. Whilst this may be regarded with some satisfaction it should be remembered that for each death there are 30 tuberculous patients in the country around us, their total number being about a quarter of a million. A majority of these patients are not infectious, but the huge total does contain a pool of infection over which control is at present inadequate. It is from this pool that so many young people contract infection and perhaps frank disease when they leave the sheltered environment of home and school for industry; and they are also at risk from the not inconsiderable number of infectious cases in the community which have been neither diagnosed, notified nor treated. Little wonder that tuberculosis is still the principal cause of prolonged incapacity and death in the age groups between 20 and 40, and that the incidence in the lowest social class remains twice as high as it is in the highest social class.

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Obviously, the problem of tuberculosis is far from being solved despite all we know about its prevention, about the detection of new cases, and the possession of new drugs which have revolutionised treatment. Although there are grounds for optimism with a death rate now falling each year it should not be forgotten that Medicine is not, and never will be, an exact science, and in tuberculosis there is always the danger of relapse. Cure cannot, therefore, be guaranteed. In so far as this district is concerned 12 cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, compared with 5, 25 and 24 in the three preceding years. 12 patients were admitted to tuberculosis hospitals during the year, and 13 were discharged. 118 cases remained on the register at the end of the year. Fortunately, admission to these hospitals can now be secured as soon as treatment is recommended and accepted.

Tuberculin Testing:

The arrangements for giving a tuberculin test to all school entrants (subject of course to parental approval) which were inaugurated last year have been continued; and this procedure has also been used at certain child welfare clinics where "birthday examinations" are given. All these young children should be tuberculin negative, indicating that they have not been infected with the germs of tuberculosis. Where a positive test results search is made amongst the family and other close contacts for the source of infection, for these contacts are rarely numerous, and by this procedure, hitherto unknown cases of tuberculosis have been discovered. In one family such a child was found, active disease discovered in his mother, and healed disease in an aunt and grandfather. We are particularly indebted to the Chest Physician, Dr. W.D. Hamilton for X-ray examination of these contacts. The part he plays in integrating the hospital and local health authority services is noteworthy, for we have frequent discussions, he attends our case conferences every month, and the health visitors take duty in rotation as his clinic nurses.

Mass Miniature Radiography:

There are now 69 units operating in this country at a cost of some £500,000 per annum. The number of cases of active tuberculosis found by these units averages between two and three per thousand persons examined. Unfortunately, the numbers presenting themselves for examination are usually only in the region of 30 to 40 per cent of the population. So that in the majority of surveys, although cases of active tuberculosis are found and offered treatment, a larger number of active cases do not attend and continue on their way spreading the disease, for probably half of these undetected cases will have a positive sputum. Their numbers may even be higher, for it is well recognised that when surveys are done on a voluntary basis those who have tuberculosis tend to be less willing to come forward for X-ray. Many suggestions have been made as to

- continued

how this response of 30 to 40 per cent could be raised to 70 per cent or more. Compulsion is the most obvious and is operated in certain countries, but it would bring many objections here, and encouragement along with the enlightened example of many industrial firms and services seem to offer the best hope of changing public opinion.

A unit of the Leeds Regional Hospital Board visited the Division during the year, and a brief report of the findings is as follows:-

	Males:	Females:	Total:
1. Examinations carried out:			
(a) Miniature X-rays taken	1770	1731	3501
(b) Large X-rays taken	72	53	125
2. Analyses of provisional findings:			
(a) Cases of active tuberculosis:	-	4	4
(b) Cases of inactive tuberculosis:	14	8	22
(c) Other abnormalities:	14	12	26
(d) Failed to re-attend for large film:	-	-	-

B.C.G. Vaccination:

This form of inoculation produces in the human body an artificially acquired resistance to subsequent infection with the tuberculosis germs. The duration and strength of this resistance are at present unknown, but it is now accepted throughout the World that B.C.G. does reduce the risk of contracting tuberculosis. It is, therefore, given by the Chest Physician to children who are particularly at risk, and these may include newly born children. And it is given by the School Medical Officers to those thirteen year old children who show, by means of a negative tuberculin test, that they have not previously acquired the infection, and are an especial risk during adolescence. Details of this scheme are given in the Appendix to this Report, in the section dealing with the School Health Service.

9. OTHER DISEASES:

Notifications were received for 13 cases of pneumonia, 7 of erysipelas, and 2 of puerperal pyrexia.

NOTIFICATIONS OF AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age Groups.

Disease Notified	0 to 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 and over	Age un- known	Total cases notif- ied	Cases adm. to hospi- tal	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	1	1	7	11	5	-	-	-	25	20	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio- myelitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	5	55	89	191	6	-	5	-	351	8	-
Whooping Cough	3	5	12	34	2	-	1	-	57	1	-

Age Groups.

Disease Notified	0 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Age un- known	Total cases notif- ied	Cases adm. to hospit- al	Total Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	-
Pneumonia	-	1	2	4	6	-	13	2	-
Erysipelas	-	-	2	2	3	-	7	3	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	4	1	-	-	-	6	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	3	3	1	-	-	10	-	-

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR
1955.

Chief Sanitary Inspector etc.

A.W. Craven, M.S.I.A.,
A.M. Inst. P.C.
Certificate of R.S.I.
& San. Insp. Joint Board
as Sanitary Inspector
Cert. of R.S.I. for Meat
& Food, Cert. of R.S.I.
for Smoke Inspection.
Testamur of Institute
of Public Cleansing.

Sanitary Inspectors.

G.E. Haigh, D.P.A., A.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.
Cert. of R.S.I. & San.
Insp. Joint Board as
Sanitary Inspector.
Cert. of R.S.I. for Meat
and Food. Diploma in
Public Administration.

K. Parker, M.S.I.A.,
Cert. of R.S.I. & San. Insp.
Joint Board as San. Insp.
Cert. of R.S.I. for Meat
and Food.

Junior Assistants.

A.B. Lee
B. Oversby

General Clerks.

Miss E. Sharples (Snr).
Miss C.M. Dewhirst.

Council Offices,
Granville Street,
SKIPTON.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the sanitary and allied services for the year 1955. This report records my sixth complete year of office in your service.

No important new legislation affecting the service came into operation, and the whole year was spent in trying to keep abreast of the duties imposed by those Statutes which became operative during 1954, and earlier.

The inspection of all the meat slaughtered in the slaughterhouses within the District was continued, usually immediately after slaughter. This duty necessitated one Inspector being on duty every Sunday afternoon, and on occasion, Saturday too, to cope with meat which was to be moved to urban markets very early on Monday mornings. The inspection of food premises generally was given high priority, and I have the general impression that food handlers are very slowly becoming more appreciative of the need for care and cleanliness in their daily work.

1
Much time was spent during the year in formulating the provisional programme of houses to be dealt with under Section 11, 12 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 in accordance with the requirements of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The programme, although presented to Committee a little later than asked for because of stress of other work, was not approved by the Council at the end of the year. Detailed examination of sub-standard properties was continued also. One Clearance Area was represented to the Health Committee, but the Area was not declared.

The scheme for the improvement of properties under the Housing Act, 1949 and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was continued, and many property owners, mainly owner-occupiers of houses, availed themselves of the opportunities set out in the scheme. I believe that this scheme is filling a very real need, and should be extended to the greatest possible extent.

The collection and disposal of household refuse was continued throughout the year without serious interruption, and the collection of salvage, particularly waste paper, showed a considerable increase over previous years. Newspapers, magazines and paper packages generally now play so great a part in our daily lives that it is inevitable that these commodities, after use, will have to be collected either as refuse or salvage, so obviously if some revenue can be obtained from them without a corresponding increase in collection costs, some profit will accrue.

Mr. K. Parker took up his duties from the County Borough of Halifax on the 1st January, and a new junior, Bryan Oversby was appointed to assist generally in the work of the Department.

In conclusion I should like to express my grateful thanks to the whole staff of the Department for the willing and efficient way they have carried out their duties. I should like also to thank the Medical Officer of Health for his help and encouragement, and the Public Health Committee for the helpful way in which my reports have been received.

I remain.

Your obedient servant.

Arthur W. Craven.

Chief Sanitary and Building Inspector.
Cleansing Superintendent.

As in previous annual reports a table giving the number of inspections made during the year is set out below. Whilst tables of this sort are not very interesting, I hope that they will be read, as they do give some idea of the scope of the work carried out during the year. The numbers generally show an increase over last year's figures.

TABLE 1.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Accumulations and Deposits	8
Ashpits	12
Dustbins	144
Other Nuisances and Visits	122
Closets: Defective	14
Conversions	89
Additional	66
Drains: Defective	94
Blocked	14
New	292
Tested	194
Dampness:	13
Dirty and Verminous Houses	12
Foundations	45
Damp Proof Courses	21
New Buildings	342
Completion of Buildings	88
Defective Flues and Fireplaces	9
Factories: with mechanical power	128
without mechanical power	1
Housing: Public Health Act.	31
Housing Act	988
Other Visits	94
Infectious Disease: Enquiry	38
Disinfection	6
Keeping of Animals	4
Knackers' Yards	3
Flooding in Cellars	2
Outworkers	6
Overcrowding	4
Petroleum	50
Piggeries and Stables	5
Rain Conductors	4
Roofs	2
Rodent Control	7
Refuse Collection and Disposal	362
Septic Tanks	28
Sinks	1
Schools	3
Smoke: Timed Observations	5
Visit to Boiler Plant	4

continued -

Tents, Vans and Sheds	32
Water Supply	49
Bakehouses	65
Butchers' Shops	58
Catering Establishments (Cafes, Hotels, etc).	119
Licensed Premises	127
Dairies	9
Fried Fish Shops	33
Grocers	160
Ice-Cream Premises	9
Other Food Premises	45
Slaughterhouses	12
Meat Inspection: Slaughterhouses	695
Distribution of Milk	2
Sampling Milk (Bacteriological)	283
Sampling Water (Bacteriological)	144
(Analysis)	5
Ice-Cream Sampling (Bacteriological)	116
Diseases of Animals Act	4
Specimens	35
Unsound Food	19

TABLE 2.

SANITARY REPAIRS AND/OR IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT BY INFORMAL ACTION.

Defective drainage repaired	7
Defective windows repaired or improved	4
Defective wall pointing renewed	3
Defective coal ranges repaired or replaced	1
Defective floors re-laid or renewed	3
Dustbins provided (incl. those supplied by the Council)	93
Nuisances from offensive accumulations abated	4
Water supplies improved	7
Defective wall plaster repaired	3
Defective rain conductors repaired or renewed	5
Defective closets repaired	12
Dampness abated	2
Leaking roofs made weatherproof	6
Ceiling plaster repaired	6
Defective coal store repaired	1
Defective flues, chimneys, flashings, repaired	3
Insanitary sinks replaced	3
Ashpits abolished	1
Dirty houses cleaned	1
Pollution of watercourses abated	2
Miscellaneous work carried out	8

SANITARY REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT BY FORMAL ACTION.

Insertion of damp proof course	1
Removal of damp wall plaster and re-plastering	1
Repairs to leaking rainwater conductors	1
Removal of obstruction in and repair to drain	1
Raking out wall pointing and re-pointing house wall	1
Repairs to macadam paths	1
Replacement of sink	1
Repairs to leaking hot water system	1
House drains connected to sewer	9
Offensive accumulations removed	1

In those cases where informal action and persuasion were not enough, statutory action was taken as set out in the next table. The previous and following tables also contain figures in respect of informal or formal notices in respect of properties in Bradley, the drainage from which was found to discharge either into the beck or into surface drains, and whilst the numbers are small, they do represent considerable time and effort in tracing drainage, re-visits etc.

It was necessary to carry out the drainage work in default of the owner in one case only.

TABLE 3.

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Informal</u> <u>Notices</u>	<u>Complied</u> <u>With</u>	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Notices</u>	<u>Complied</u> <u>With</u>	<u>Under-</u> <u>tak-</u> <u>ings</u> <u>accept-</u> <u>ed</u>	<u>Closing</u> <u>Order</u>	<u>Demolit-</u> <u>ion</u> <u>Orders</u>
Adingham	14	5	1				1
Appleby	2	3					
Barnsley	1						
Bolton Abbey	3	2					
Bradleys Both	4	1		9		1	
Brogden	3	2					
Broughton	1						
Burnsall	4	2					
Carleton	19	15			2		
Chonley	8	7					
Cowling	17	9					
Craoe	1						
Craughton	1		1		1		
Cslack	1	1					

continued -

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Informal Notices</u>	<u>Complied with</u>	<u>Statutory Notices</u>	<u>Complied with</u>	<u>Under- tak- ings accept- ed</u>	<u>Closing Order</u>	<u>Demolit- ion Orders</u>
Enbsay-w-							
Eastby	13	10	1	1			
Eshton	1	1					
Farnhill	2	4	1				
Gargrave	16	13	2	1			
Glusburn	20	15				2	
Grassington	11	6	1		1		
Hebden	5	2					
Hetton	1						
Kettlewell-w-							
Starbottton	3						
Kildwick	1	1					
Linton	2	2					
Lothersdale	4						
Martons Both	2	2					
Salterforth	9	6			1		
Steeton-w-							
Eastburn	9	6					
Sutton	18	11					1
Threshfield	2						
	206	126	7	11	5	4	1

As in former years the supervision of repairs to dwellinghouses occupied a high proportion of the Inspectors' time. In this district the fact that rents of well maintained houses can now be increased has done but little to overcome the reluctance of the owners of tenanted houses towards the carrying out of essential repairs; indeed it is doubtful if more than a small minority of landlords have availed themselves of the relevant provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

In one case where the rent was raised the tenant applied for and obtained from the Council a Certificate of Disrepair. In addition, a further six applications were received towards the end of the year, but certificates had not been issued.

TABLE 4.

NEW SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AND ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING CONVENIENCES.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Privy Closets to W.Cs.</u>	<u>Pails convert- ed to W.Cs.</u>	<u>W.W.Cs. convert- ed to W.Cs.</u>	<u>Addition- al W.Cs. provided to old proper- ty.</u>	<u>Addition- W.Cs. to new property</u>	<u>New Pails.</u>
ingham				3		
letreewick				2		
adley		11	5	2		
nsall		3				
leton			3	2		
istone-W-						
lnsey		1				
onley			1			
rling			3	2		
ughton				1		
nhill			1			
grave			8	4		
sburn			1	6		
hersdale				4		
terforth			1	1		
eton-W-						
stburn				3		
ton			8	11		
reshfield					1	
-		15	31	41	1	-

The above table shows that the conversions from waste water closets to fresh water closets, and the number of additional W.Cs. has followed a very similar pattern as in former years, but that the number of pail closets converted to water closets shows some increase.

As I reported in my last Annual Report the Council decided that some assistance may be given towards the cost of converting pail closets to water closets; unfortunately, no grant figure was mentioned, but it was decided that each scheme should be treated on its merits.

The details of this scheme were placed before a property owner in Bradley who, after consideration, decided to convert the pails serving his property to the water carriage system.

After consideration of the owner's claim for assistance it was decided that no grant would be paid. As I stated in my last report, the grant scheme in its present form is unlikely to have any significant effect on those pail closets still remaining within reach of a public sewer.

DRAINAGE.

The testing of all new drainage wherever possible was continued, and drainage as under was tested.

1,712 yards of 4" drain
84 yards of 6" drain
172 yards of 6" cast iron drain
13 yards of 12" drain

The above figures show a considerable increase over those of last year. The high standard of workmanship reached has generally been maintained.

TABLE 5.

HOUSES AND CONVERSIONS TO HOUSES ETC.

	Council Houses	Council Flats	Buildings converted to houses etc.	Private Houses	No. of W.Cs. in above houses.	No. of baths in above houses.	No. with Council water laid on.	No. with Private water from Statutory or Private Undertakings.	No. connected to sewer.	No. connected to septic tanks.	Conversion of one house into two, +	
	1	1	-	2	3	2	-	2	2	-	-	
Addingham	6	1	-	1	7	7	7	-	7	-	-	
Bradley	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	
Burnsall	1	1	-	-	8	8	8	-	8	-	-	
Cononley	1	1	-	1	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	
Cowling	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	
Crosshills	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	
Embsay-w-Eastby	1	1	-	-	12	12	12	-	12	-	-	
Gargrave	28	1	-	1	37	37	37	-	37	-	-	
Glusburn	4	1	-	-	4	4	4	-	4	-	-	
Grassington	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	
Rylstone	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	
Steeton-w-Eastburn	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Thornton	58	1	-	10	78	76	73	3	74	2	1	
TOTAL:	8											

Your Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the details in the foregoing table which relate to Council houses; the others are, of course, taken from the records within the Health Department.

The overall figures show a considerable reduction on last year. Private house building continues to be very slack, and in my view, whilst present building prices apply, this will continue.

TABLE 6.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of dwellinghouses in the District.		8,367
Number of back-to-back houses included in above.		315
1.	Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	509
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	1,019
(2)	(a) Number of dwellinghouses (incl. under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	454
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	957
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses needing further action:	
	(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	392
	(b) Number (excl. those in sub-head (3)(a) above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	117
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.	
	(a) Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	14
	(b) Number of defective dwellinghouses (excl. those shown in (a) above) in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	41
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs	3

- (5) Number of houses in Clearance Areas demolished during the year. 2
- (6) Number of persons rehoused from houses demolished during the year. 5

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 2
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein 2
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 18
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year -
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases. 5

5. New Houses.

Number of new houses provided during the year:-

By the Local Authority: Permanent type: 66

Temporary type: -

By Private Enterprise: 10

6. Housing Act, 1949.

Section 4 - Any action in connection with advances for purposes of increasing housing accommodation? None

7. Housing Act, 1949, as amended by Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Grants to persons other than local authorities for improvement of housing accommodation. Any action during the year? 36 applications approved: Total approved expenses in executing improvements £15,851. 9. 8: amount of grant approved £7,882. 10. 0: total amount of grant paid in 1955: £608. 10. 0: in respect of improvements to 4 dwellings.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners -

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 1

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. -

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners -

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners -

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwellinghouses unfit for habitation. 5

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 1

(3) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 1

(4) Any action under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953? If so, what? 3 Closing Orders made.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. 1

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. -

E. Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of Clearance Areas represented during the year. 1

(2) Number of houses included in these areas. 7

(3) Number of persons to be displaced. 14

(4) Action taken during the year in respect of Clearance Areas:-

(a) By Clearance Orders, number made.

During the year the compilation of the provisional list of sub-standard houses for submission to the Ministry took a considerable time, and it was found to be impossible to send the figures before the 31st August. Although they were available shortly afterwards, the Council had not given them their final approval at the end of the year.

A representation under Section 157 (2) of the Act in respect of 13 houses and 2 buildings now used as lock-up shops, but formerly houses, was laid before the Public Health Committee at their November, 1954 meeting, but unfortunately the Area was not declared and was later reduced in size to 7 of the houses set out above. It is again pointed out that if the Area had been declared as originally submitted the Ministry acting in a judicial capacity on appeal, could have made the final decision, whereas they cannot inset houses into a Clearance Area. Confirmation of two Clearance Orders in the Parish of Gargrave was received during the year and some, although not all, of the occupants were rehoused.

Of the 9 houses mentioned above as having been dealt with under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, three statutory undertakings that houses would not be reoccupied until made fit for that purpose and one undertaking setting out works which the owner was prepared to do to make the houses fit were accepted. One Demolition Order was made, and three Closing Orders were made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

Improvement Grants.

Property owners, mainly those occupying the property concerned, showed a little more interest in the improvement grants scheme, and the owners of those houses set out below applied for and obtained the Council's approval for assistance towards the improvements.

It is somewhat of a surprise to me that more owners of good but somewhat obsolete houses are not taking advantage of this scheme, particularly now that 8% interest on the owners only can be added to the rent. It may well be that this latter factor accounts for the resistance of some tenants, as I know of one case of a row of good houses where one tenant only would consent to the landlord carrying out a scheme of modernisation.

Even though the number of actual applicants is somewhat low a considerable amount of time and effort was expended in inspecting property and giving advice on the grant scheme, after which, in a considerable proportion of cases, either the house did not qualify or the conditions were unacceptable to the owner, and no application followed.

No. of
schemes
completed
during
year

Amount of
Grant
Approved.

Amount of
Approved
Expenses.

No. of
Applic-
ations
sub-
mitted.

Address

Total amount
of grant paid.
(April to Dec.
1955).

£.

s.

d.

£.

s.

d.

£.

s.

d.

£.

s.

d.

Addingham

Banknewton

Bordley

Bracewell

Bradley

Carleton

Cowling

Draughton +

Embsay-w-Eastby

Flasby

Farnhill

Gargrave

Glusburn

Lothersdale

Martons Both

Rylstone

Salterforth

Steeeton-w-

Eastburn

Sutton

Thornton +

Threshfield

TOTAL:

39

15,851

9

8,788

10

-

10

608

10

-

+ denotes that an application has been withdrawn.

In the 3 cases where no expenses were approved, the applications were refused.

TABLE 7.

	No. of bins collect- ed.	No. of pails collect- ed	Approx. No. of loads dry refuse per Parish.	Approx. tonnage of dry refuse per Parish.
Addingham	28,540	1,092	310 $\frac{1}{2}$	511
Appletreewick	1,632	754	18	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Banknewton		No collection		
Barden	130	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beamsley	1,144	442	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bolton Abbey	962	338	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	17
Bordley		No collection		
Bracewell & Brogden	858	-	9	15
Bradleys Both	6,084	1,336	66	109
Broughton	624	416	7	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Buckden	-	318	-	-
Burnsall	1,872	698	20	33
Calton	390	-	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carleton	8,736	-	96	158
Coniston Cold & Bell Busk	1,170	-	13	21
Coniston-w-Kilnsey	1,769	375	19	31
Cononley	7,410	520	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	132 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cowling	30,364	2,200	330	544 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cracoe, Rylstone & Hetton	2,625	494	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	47
Draughton	832	1,196	9	15
Elslack	754	418	8	13
Embsay-w-Eastby	9,308	-	101	166 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eshton	754	-	8	13
Flasby-w-Winterburn	546	-	6	10
Gargrave	12,740	520	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	228 $\frac{1}{2}$
Glusburn	44,558	364	484	798 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grassington	13,000	-	141	232 $\frac{1}{2}$
Halton East	650	728	7	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hartlington	416	-	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	7
Hazlewood-w-Storiths	546	-	6	10
Hebden	3,016	2,444	33	54
Kettlewell-w- Starbotten	250	318	4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kildwick & Farnhill	6,266	728	68	112
Linton	1,638	260	18	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lothersdale	3,276	5,044	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$
Martons Both	2,132	780	23	38
Salterforth	4,316	1,092	47	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
Steeton-w-Eastburn	41,286	-	449	741
Stirton-w-Thorlby	1,144	-	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sutton	43,758	416	475 $\frac{1}{2}$	784 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thornton	2,418	78	26	43
Thorpe	425	-	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	7
Threshfield	4,888	858	53	87

Cost per ton of collecting refuse.	31/-
Cost per ton of disposing of refuse.	5/9d
Cost per ton of collecting & disposing of refuse.	36/9d

Cost per 1,000 head of population for:

Collection:	£324
Disposal:	£ 63
Collection and Disposal:	£387

Approx. tonnage collected during the year.	5,240 tons.
Approx. number of loads collected.	3,183

The Cleansing service was continued without modification throughout the year; and two parishes only, being very sparsely populated were entirely without collections of household refuse and nightsoil.

Your attention is again directed to the figures appearing at the bottom of table 7. When the acreage of the district is considered (146,071), and the fact that about 48% of the collection area has a weekly collection of household refuse, and 52% a bi-weekly collection, I hope that you will consider the figures to be satisfactory as they are lower than the average of those contained in the "Public Cleansing : Costing Returns".

Labour continued to be somewhat difficult to obtain and retain as is always the case when the local textile and other factories are working at full pressure and requiring all the labour they can get.

The vehicles engaged in cleansing gave good, mainly trouble free service throughout the year although it became more and more obvious towards the end that the Karrier Bantam No. 2 would need renewing in the near future.

Vehicle Nos. 2, 4 and 5 are Karrier Bantam 7 cubic yard refuse collection vehicles, Nos. 3 and 7 are Dennis 7 cubic yard refuse collectors, and No. 1 is a Dennis 10 cubic yard refuse collector. Vehicle No. 6 is a Ford 10 cwt. van with a refuse collection body.

It was found possible to re-line the bodies of wagon Nos. 4 and 5 with galvanised steel sheets and re-paint them during the midsummer holiday break, using your own labour.

During December collection of refuse were somewhat disorganised by a heavy fall of snow and, of course, later by the Christmas holidays, but by dint of working overtime the premises in the district were reasonably clear of refuse by the end of the year.

It was found to be necessary to renew the tank used for the collection of pail closet contents and a steel wagon body which has been stored at the Depot for some years was adapted for this purpose at a cost of some £30; this is considerably less than half the cost of a completely new tank.

During the year the first few loads of composted pail closet contents were sold to a market gardener. Although I was informed that the manure was to be used for the cultivation of sweet peas and not for any food crop a sample of the manure was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, and found to be free from pathogenic organisms, before delivery took place.

During the year a tip fire occurred at Addingham necessitating two visits from the fire brigade. No tipping was being done at the place where the fire started, and it might well have been caused by trespassers on the tip as we have been troubled by unauthorised persons "rooting" on this tip.

For many years complaints have been received from the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, and others on the appearance of the refuse tip in use at Kilnsey for the Kettlewell district. Every effort has been made with the limited labour available to keep this tip tidy, but the efforts of your staff have largely been nullified by trespassers on the tip and people throwing refuse over the wall from the highway.

It seemed to me that to leave this tip, which was formerly a quarry, half filled would be a permanent eyesore instead of a temporary one, and its use was continued, but as the quarry was becoming full during the year negotiations were started for the lease of another tip site nearer Kettlewell. This has the approval of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, and indeed was actually suggested by that body. Informal approval was also obtained from the Area Planning Officer of the County.

The Chaseside mechanical shovel mentioned in my last report was purchased for the joint use of the Surveyor's and Health Departments and proved very useful indeed in soiling over the refuse, particularly on the Cononley tip. It was found that the shovel would pick up turf and soil and carry and deposit it on the required site without having a wagon standing by.

At the end of the year your new tip at Cononley was in good order, but owing to labour difficulties some work remained to be done on others.

The collection and disposal of various items of salvage was intensified during the year, and in the early months some publicity was undertaken. A film "Grist to the Mills", kindly loaned by Messrs. Thames Board Mills Ltd., was exhibited at Crosshills and Grassington cinemas; posters were obtained and put on the collection vehicles and a press notice asking for public support was inserted in the "Crosshills and District Advertiser".

The collection of trade refuse including paper and cardboard boxes from shops and other business premises was continued throughout the year. A nominal charge of 10/- per annum for 26 collections was introduced to take effect from the 1st April.

During January some trouble was experienced with the "Powell" baling press, on examination it was found that there was considerable wear on the wheels of the bogie carrying the ram. The shafts carrying the wheels were renewed and the wheels re-bushed; the oiling arrangements were also modified. These modifications were carried out without causing any appreciable hold up.

Upon a further representation being made by the Trade Union representing the employees it was decided that a modified form of plant for the extraction of dust be installed on the "Powell" press, such appliance to be fixed in the next financial year. A representation by the Union on the question of protective clothing was also considered, but it was decided that as boiler suits and gloves are already provided any further protection would be against the weather, and not the material handled. The request was refused.

The salvage bonus of 10% on the value of all sales was continued, and the workmen did all that could be expected of them. Whilst the tonnage of waste paper etc., particularly, was increased considerably, little extra labour was expended in dealing with it.

The price obtained for salvage continued to be satisfactory throughout the year, and I set out overleaf a table showing the income from this and allied headings throughout the calendar year.

TABLE 8.

SALVAGE.

The income from the sale of salvage and services rendered during the calendar year was as under:-

<u>Materials or Service.</u>	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed Waste Paper	110	2	1	0	867	12	8
Fibreboard	48	16	0	0	477	13	3
Newspapers	43	7	1	16	447	15	10
Books & Magazines	39	6	2	12	367	11	6
Textiles	2	14	3	16	74	11	6
Carpets & Sacking		9	3	23	1	19	6
String		6	2	7	3	7	8
Cast iron	4	0	3	0	23	2	7
Light iron	2	19	1	0	9	16	0
Aluminium		5	1	2	31	5	11
Copper				6		10	9
Scrap steel, light & cutting steel		11	1	0	2	5	0
Bed ends etc.	2	4	0	0	8	17	10
Zinc				19		7	6
Brass				14		19	2
Light cast iron		11	3	0	3	10	6
Lead				6		3	9
Light scrap iron					1	0	0
14 doz. bottles					1	1	0
22 yards turf					1	2	0
8 loads manure					6	10	0

continued -

<u>Materials or Service</u>	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£.	s.	d.
2 hand operated tippers and handles					5.	0.	0.
1 load turf and soil					2	10	0
Collection and disposal of trade refuse					<u>63</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>
					<u>£2,402</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>

PRIVATELY OWNED WATER SUPPLIES.

As in former years the inspection and sampling of private water supplies was continued throughout the year. In some cases rather unusual results were obtained as supplies which had never been polluted in the past, even during the wet weather of last year, showed considerable pollution when sampled during the rainier period in the Autumn. After some consideration and discussion it seemed that the deep cracks which opened in the clay sub-soil during the very dry summer may have had the effect of allowing surface washings to penetrate the impervious layer and go straight into water bearing strata beneath. It seemed also that the presence of large numbers of rabbit bodies in warrens after the incidence of myxomatosis might well have had some bearing on the pollution of the supplies. Samples taken from two such supplies almost at the end of the year showed some improvement.

After investigations, representations were made to owners and improvements were effected to eight supplies.

The use of filters containing "Sterasyl" candles was continued and additional filters were recommended. Several samples before and after filtration were taken; in every case the result after filtration showed that the water was sterile or almost so even though the water entering the filter was grossly polluted. Experience during the year serves to confirm the impression gained last year that this type of filter has a great future on all untreated supplies.

TABLE 9.

WATER SAMPLING.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Total:</u>	<u>Laboratory Report.</u>		
		<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Doubtful.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Addingham	5	4	1	-
Appletreewick	4	4	-	-
Barden	4	4	-	-
Beamsley	1	-	-	1
Bolton Abbey	1	1	-	-
Bordley	1	1	-	-
Bracewell	2	-	-	2
Bradleys Both	4	2	1	1
Brogden	3	3	-	-
Carleton	1	1	-	-
Cowling	4	-	1	3
Cracoe	1	1	-	-
Draughton	3	2	-	1
Elslack	2	-	-	2
Flasby-w-Winterburn	2	1	-	1
Glusburn	5	2	1	2
Halton East	18	3	3	12
Hartlington	6	4	2	-
Hebden	3	3	-	-
Kettlewell-w-Starbotten	11	2	3	6
Kildwick	4	2	1	1
Linton	1	1	-	-
Lothersdale	24	16	5	3
Rylstone	2	2	2	-
Sutton	7	4	-	1
Threshfield	1	1	-	-
		120	64	20
				36

In addition to the above, two samples were submitted to the Analyst for chemical examination, one of which, although acid, was reasonably satisfactory.

In the case of the other sample, which was taken because the house was being dealt with under the Housing Act and the presence of metallic pollution was suspected, the report showed that the water contained a dangerous amount of zinc. Further investigations showed that the water was taking up zinc from a supply cistern. The occupier was advised that the water must not be drunk either raw or boiled pending the action mentioned above under Section 11 of the Housing Act.

Four further samples were taken in Cononley for plumbo-solvency and lead content at the request of the County Council. All gave negative results.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There has been no increase in the number of swimming baths in use during the year. As mentioned in earlier reports those in Glusburn and Sutton, whilst privately owned, are open to the public and both have up-to-date filtration and chlorination plants. All except one of the samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

The private bath at Linton Camp School was in use throughout the summer season, and as hitherto this was emptied several times during the season and re-filled. It was chlorinated by hand when full and in use.

TABLE 10.

RAINFALL RECORDS. (in inches)

	<u>Bolton Abbey.</u>	<u>Banknewton.</u>	<u>Winterburn.</u>
January	1.94	2.24	2.19
February	2.14	1.29	1.30
March	2.59	2.10	2.02
April	1.32	1.35	2.05
May	3.37	3.77	3.72
June	2.31	2.72	3.07
July	.96	.81	1.33
August	.96	1.47	1.28
September	2.47	3.10	2.87
October	3.00	2.74	2.99
November	2.00	2.89	2.37
December	5.28	6.34	5.50
	<u>28.34</u>	<u>30.82</u>	<u>30.69</u>

The average rainfall for the twelve months was 29.95.

The average rainfall recorded in the above parishes for the last five years:-

1954	50.29
1953	33.36
1952	34.76
1951	42.41
1950	43.25

In common with the rest of the country the rainfall was, of course, well below average.

MILK SUPPLIES:

The supervision of the distribution of milk throughout the area was continued during the year, the tendency for the distribution of bulk pasteurised milk by small retailers was further continued, and the number of producer-retailers continued to diminish. At the end of the year there were very few retailers of milk from cows which had not passed the Tuberculin test due to the extension of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's attestation scheme, although quite a number of these retailers had no Tuberculin Tested licence.

The number of producer-retailers is now something like 120 and as hitherto the main sampling was concentrated amongst these..

Apart from the producer-retailers there were 14 firms registered as retailers and distributors of milk, 11 firms were issued with licences under the Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949., authorising them to sell Tuberculin Tested milk within the district, three firms held Dealers' licences under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 authorising the use of the designation "Pasteurised" and 2 "Sterilised". In addition, one dairy was registered under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1950 and the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The number of samples taken and submitted for methylene blue test was somewhat smaller than hitherto. Details are given below of the number of samples submitted for methylene blue, phosphatase and turbidity tests.

TABLE 11.

MILK SAMPLING RESULTS.

	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Methylene Blue Test.</u>		<u>Phosphatase Test</u>		<u>Turbidity Test</u>	
		<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsat.</u>
Undesignated milk	75	62	13	-	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested	179	156	23	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised	5	5	-	4	1	-	-
T.T.(Pasteurised)	9	9	-	9	-	-	-
Sterilised	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
	<u>270</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

Milk sampling results - continued

The under-mentioned samples were also submitted to the biological test, in addition to the tests enumerated above.

<u>Designation of Milk</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Positive.</u>
Undesignated Milk	46	1
Tuberculin Tested Milk	102	1

Empty milk bottles were submitted for bacteriological examination to check the efficiency of washing plants with the results as set out below.

<u>No. of batches.</u>	<u>No. of bottles.</u>	<u>No. Satisfactory.</u>	<u>No. Doubtful.</u>	<u>No. Unsatisfactory.</u>
13	42	37	-	5

The total number of samples taken and submitted for laboratory examination, including the 13 groups of milk bottles was 283.

TABLE 12.
ICE-CREAM SAMPLING.

Registered retailers of ice-cream: 85

Registered manufacturers and retailers of
ice-cream (included in above figure): 9

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF LABORATORY
EXAMINATION.

Grade 1.	78
Grade 2.	26
Grade 3.	9
Grade 4.	<u>3</u>

Total number of samples taken: 116

The number of ice-cream samples submitted for examination was very similar to last year's figure.

On receipt of the reports on the three samples of Grade 4 ice-cream enumerated above, investigations were made at the retailing shops. Whilst it could not be proved it was suspected that the temperature of the ice-cream had been allowed to rise above the statutory figure.

TABLE 13.

REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS ETC., TO FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

Re-decoration carried out	23
New floors laid or floors repaired	7
Sinks installed	8
Hot water provided	6
Glass counters and display cabinets provided	11
Counters etc., covered with imperniabile material	5
Structural alterations	1
Off-the-floor vegetable racks provided	2
New sanitary accommodation provided or existing sanitary accommodation improved	9
Proper swill bins provided	2
Dishwashing machines provided	1
Walls re-plastered	4
Ceilings re-plastered or lined	3
Structural and internal alterations	4

TABLE 14.

FOOD SHOPS AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

The total number of food shops etc. within the district is 295, and details as to the type and number of premises are given below:-

General Food Shops	6
Grocers' Shops	47
Butchers' Shops	29
Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants	29
Fried Fish Shops	17
Ice-Cream Premises	15
Licensed Premises	36
General Food Shops and Bakehouses	9
General Food Shops and Ice-Cream Premises	17
General Food Shops, Bakehouses & Ice-Cream Premises	3
General Food Shops, Bakehouses, Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants and Ice-Cream Premises	1
Grocers' Shops and Bakehouses	6
Grocers' and Butchers' Shops	2
Grocers' Shops and Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants and Ice-Cream Premises	1
Bakehouses, Butchers' Shops and Ice-Cream Premises	1
Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants and Ice-Cream Premises	13
Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants and Licensed Premises	23
Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants, Ice-Cream and Licensed Premises	1
General Food Shops, Bakehouses and Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants	1

continued -

The system of informing ice-cream retailers of the results of all samples whatever the grade was continued, and those below Grade 2 were followed up by a visit to try to find out the cause of the poor result of the test.

FOOD PREPARATION.

Referring to my last report I am very pleased to be able to state that the Grocer's Shop which was giving rise to anxiety throughout the year changed hands, and the new occupier quickly cleaned out the whole premises thoroughly and re-stocked. The shop is now no trouble and is very clean and properly run.

The dilapidated lean-to bakehouse also mentioned in my last report was pulled down and a new one built during the year, thus replacing one most unsatisfactory building by a satisfactory one.

I believe that traders are gradually, if slowly, becoming more aware of their responsibilities, and we see less of dirty methods than we used to in the past, although one must admit that there is still room for improvement in many instances. The use of covered cases for the protection of sugar confectionery was extended, and at the end of the year few shops displayed unprotected confectionery on their counters.

The publicity work undertaken in previous years was continued by the distribution of pamphlets and explanatory letters to the Food Trade drawing their attention to the dangers of food poisoning attendant on dirty methods, and giving hints on how to avoid such outbreaks. A circular and covering letter was also sent out to bakers on the dangers attendant on the use of Chinese Egg Albumen.

A further circular letter was sent out to the Licensees of Public Houses throughout the district giving hints on the efficient washing and sterilisation of glasses.

In order to make quite sure that traders had no cause for complaint on the sterility of implements used for sampling a quantity of sterilised wooden spatulas was obtained and used for placing ice-cream samples in the sample jars.

The very essential regular inspections were continued throughout the year.

I set out overleaf the improvements effected to food premises after informal notice had been given to occupiers.

TABLE 15.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND RESULTS OF INSPECTION.

Class of Animals.		Cattle ex. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed and inspected		656	328	11	1,723	7,195	8
Diseases and Conditions other than Tuberculosis.	Whole carcasses unfit	1	7	2	-	2	-
	No. of cases where parts of organs unfit	62	37	-	41	472	-
	% affected	9.60	13.43	18	2.38	6.59	-
Tuberculosis	Whole carcasses unfit	1	14	1	-	3	-
	No. of cases where parts or organs unfit	56	105	1	-	82	-
	% affected	8.68	36.58	18	-	1.18	-
Cysticercosis	Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	1	-	-	-	-
	Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration (inc. in above)	2	1	-	-	-	-

- continued

Bakehouses and Butchers' Shops	1
General Food Shops, Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants and Ice-Cream Premises	2
Grocers' and Butchers' Shops and Ice-Cream Premises	1
Grocers' Shops and Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants	1
Grocers' and Fried Fish Shops	1
Grocers' Shops and Ice-Cream Premises	32

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The slaughtering of food animals which was re-commenced during last year was continued throughout the year. Inspections were carried out in all cases, usually immediately after slaughter; except in a few instances it was not found possible to be present all the time slaughtering was carried out.

Generally speaking five of the six slaughterhouses which were licensed were kept in reasonably clean condition, but one of them gave rise to a considerable amount of work and trouble in constantly writing to ask for very necessary cleaning and maintenance operations to be done.

The following tables give details of the carcasses inspected, and the amount of unsound meat found. All meat and offal found to be diseased was thoroughly coloured before being allowed to be moved for processing.

Towards the end of the year arrangements were made for unsound food to be removed by a Bradford firm and in all cases a specific guarantee was given by the firm that no part of the condemned food would be used for human consumption.

TABLE 16.

No. of animals inspected during the year.

<u>Beef.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>
984	11	1,723	7,195	8

Amount of meat and organs surrendered and destroyed or directed to animal feeding: 19,482 lbs.

Analysis of unsound meat and organs destroyed or directed to animal feeding.

	<u>Meat.</u>	<u>Organs.</u>
	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Beef	12,484	3,613
Pork	2,172	1,133
Mutton	—	80
	<u>14,656</u>	<u>4,826</u>

Type of Disease.

Weight.

Lbs.

Tuberculosis	12,715
Oedema	1,424
Acute gastro-enteritis	800
Septic peritonitis	780
Peritonitis	443
Medicine taint	439
Distomatosis	428
Fever and oedema	400
Pleurisy	294
Swine erysipelas	256
Pneumonia	205
Jaundice	171
Abscesses	120
Pericarditis	99
Necrosis	98
Actinomycosis	82
Actinobacillosis	82
Mastitis	68
Immaturity and oedema	66
Lunbricoides	64
Fatty degeneration	63

continued -

Type of Disease.

Weight.

Lbs.

Milk spots
Infarcts
Parasites
Cysticercus bovis
Cirrhosis
Congenital tuberculosis
Pentastones
Contamination
Pyogenic abscesses
Congestion
Arthritis
Cysts
Cysticercus tenuicollis
Pyelonephritis
Strongylus
Echinococcus veterinorum
Hypertrophy
Nephritis
Bilateral hydronephrosis

55
52
43
34
29
28
22
21
20
16
14
11
13
8
7
4
3
3
2

Total:

19,482

Type of Disease

Weight

Meat.
Lbs.

Organs.
Lbs.

Beef.

Abscesses
Actinobacillosis
Actinomycosis
Acute gastro-enteritis
Acute peritonitis
Arthritis
Cirrhosis
Congestion
Congenital tuberculosis
Contamination
Cysts
Cysticercus bovis
Distomatosis
Echinococcus Veterinorum
Fever and cedema
Fatty degeneration
Immaturity and oedema
Mastitis
Medicine taint
Nephritis
Necrosis

24
82
82
750
400
14
-
-
28
-
-
-
29
-
-
400
-
60
-
400
-
-

85
-
-
50
34
-
28
8
-
16
11
5
392
4
-
23
6
56
39
2
42

- continued

Type of Disease.

Weight.

Meat.
Lbs.

Organs.
Lbs.

Oedema	1,310	114
Pentastones	-	22
Pneumonia	-	22
Pyelonephritis	-	8
Pyogenic abscesses	-	20
Septic peritonitis	730	50
Tuberculosis	8,175	2,576

12,484

3,613

Pork.	Abscesses	1	6
	Acute swine erysipelas	250	-
	Bilateral hydronephrosis	-	2
	Congestion	-	6
	Contamination	-	5
	Cysticercus tenuicollis	-	13
	Fatty degeneration	-	35
	Hypertrophy	-	3
	Jaundice	160	11
	Infarcts	-	52
	Lunbricoides	-	64
	Mastitis	-	10
	Milk Spots	-	55
	Necrosis	-	52
	Nephritis	-	1
	Parasites	-	28
	Pericarditis	-	99
	Peritonitis	-	9
	Pleurisy	-	294
	Pneumonia	-	183
	Swine erysipelas	-	6
	Tuberculosis	1,761	199

2,172

1,133

Mutton.	<u>Type of Disease.</u>	<u>Meat.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>	<u>Organs.</u>
		<u>Lbs.</u>		<u>Lbs.</u>
	Abscesses	-		4
	Acute fasciolates	-		4
	Cirrhosis	-		1
	Congestion	-		2
	Distomatosis	-		32
	Fatty Degeneration	-		5
	Mastitis	-		2
	Necrosis	-		4
	Parasites	-		15
	Strongylus	-		7
	Tuberculosis	-		4
				80

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS REJECTED AS UNSOUND.

Total meat condemned 19,482 lbs., including 23 complete beast carcasses, 3 calf carcasses and 5 pig carcasses, weighing together 14,656 lbs., the remainder, 4,826 lbs. being organs.

Of the 14 whole cow carcasses rejected as a result of generalised tuberculosis all were sent for slaughter either under the Tuberculosis Order 1938 or as reactors to the Tuberculin test.

The following amounts of other foods were also found to be unfit for consumption, the owners in each case voluntarily surrendering the foods.

TABLE 17.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

<u>Food.</u>	<u>Weight.</u> Lbs. Ozs.		<u>Condition.</u>
Canned fruits	39	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Blown & damaged cans, decomposition of contents, blown or leaking or badly damaged cans, rusted and badly damaged cans.
Corned beef	6	0	Decomposition.
Canned vegetables	8	0	Badly damaged and springer cans, decomposition of contents.
Processed cheese	3	3	Decomposition.
Luncheon meat	7	12	Blown and damaged cans, blown cans, punctured and rusty can, followed by decomposition.
Roast pork (rolls)	16	8	Fly blown condition.
Canned ham	54	7	Blown cans and decomposition
Canned stewed steak	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Blown and damaged cans and blown can.
Shrimps		5	Blown and damaged can
Fish fillets	70	0	Unfit

- continued

<u>Food.</u>	<u>Weight.</u> Lbs. Ozs.	<u>Condition.</u>
Bag skin milk powder	30 0	Damaged bag and contamination with mites.
Carton skin milk powder	56 0	Contamination with rust particles and other extraneous matter.
Canned sausage	1 2	Blown can
Canned marmalade	3 0	Blown cans
Bottled marmalade	1 0	Damaged Container
Canned chicken	3 13	Blown can
Canned chicken soup	15½	Blown can.
Canned ox tongue	4 0	Blown can.

Dirty and Verminous Houses.

One dirty house was found during the year, and another was treated for an infestation of insects arising from a wood storage place above the house concerned. In addition cockroach infestations were dealt with by the Council's operative at four mills and one house within the district.

Rats and Mice.

The period covered by this section is from the 1st April, 1955 to the 31st March, 1956. As in former years the Rodent Operative was engaged in dealing with surface infestations, the Council's services and third party infestations. Block control methods were used as far as possible.

The free service to private shareholders was continued and the co-operation of householders in reporting infestations was very good.

The tables below, will, I think, demonstrate that the rat population is being progressively reduced by regular and systematic treatment.

The first sewer treatment was a full one, but the second was modified by agreement with the Technical Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

TABLE 18.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	No. on register.	In Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorit- ies.	11	7	-	-
(2) Factories not incl. in (1) in which Sec.7 is en- forced by the Local Authority.	124	128	45	-
(3) Other Premises in which Sec.7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excl. out- workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	135	135	45	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)			
(a) Insufficient	3	3	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	49	25	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not incl. offences relating to Outwork)	1	-	-
TOTAL:	53	28	-

First Treatment.Second Treatment.

Number treated.	Poison & Bait base used.	Manholes showing take.
-----------------	--------------------------	------------------------

Number treated.	Poison & Bait base used.	Manholes showing take.
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850	Sausage rusk & zinc Phosphide	78
-----	-------------------------------	----

396	Sausage rusk & zinc phosphide	31
-----	-------------------------------	----

The total number of manholes is 1,428.

The table below gives details of surface infestations dealt with

Type of Property.	No. Inspected.	No. of infestations found.	Rats.		Mice.		Treated.
			Major.	Minor.	Major.	Minor.	
Sewage works.	18	18	5	13	-	-	18
Refuse tips.	13	12	6	6	-	-	12
Dwelling-houses.	146	84	0	75	4	5	83
Agricultural Premises.	48	25	11	14	-	-	23
Business Premises.	57	29	2	17	7	3	29
	282	168	24	125	11	8	165

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

91 licences authorising the keeping of petrol, petroleum products and/or carbide of calcium were issued. These licences authorised the storage of some 148,600 gallons of petrol and 336 lbs. of carbide of calcium.

Regular visits to Factories were continued and a number of improvements as shown above were effected. Factory managements were generally very co-operative, and no statutory action was necessary in respect of any defect found in those portions of the Factories which are within the purview of the Council.

No certificates of means of escape in case of fire were issued during the year.

OUTWORKERS.

Difficulty was experienced with one factory management in giving the requisite return of outworkers employed although other firms did send the return in without trouble.

All the outworkers were engaged in the burling and mending of woven piece goods.

In addition particulars of outworkers included in the returns from the factories who live in other districts were sent to the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the district concerned.

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

DIVISION NO.1.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1955.

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2. Staff
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12. Children Neglected or Ill Treated
13. Care and After Care
14. Ambulance Service
15. School Health Service
16. Welfare Foods Service
17. Medical Examinations

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The division consists of the following districts:-

	<u>Population</u>	<u>Area in Acres</u>
Silsden Urban District	5,820	7,101
Earby Urban District	5,348	3,519
Barnoldswick Urban District	10,282	2,764
Skipton Urban District	13,210	4,211
Skipton Rural District	23,715	146,071

(Ø figures derived from Registrar General's Preliminary Report on 1951 Census).

Social conditions in this mixed urban and rural community changed little during the year, for although some branches of the textile industry experienced difficulty, and four firms in West Craven ceased production, it was possible to find alternative employment for the great majority of male operatives. Women, particularly those requiring only part time work have been more difficult to place. In other trades and occupations there has been very little unemployment. In fact, most industries, agriculture, and the railways are permanently short of employees.

Housing conditions have improved in all the districts, and a start has been made in clearing slum properties under the provisions of "The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954". The weather in 1955 was the reverse of that experienced in 1954, the summer being remarkable for its long spell of hot, dry weather, and the autumn mainly dry and mild. Farming, one of the staple occupations, thus had a much better year.

The prolonged drought had a serious effect on many water supplies. Although it was a great inconvenience to many people and presented a threat to the health of the public, no outbreak of disease resulted.

2. DIVISIONAL STAFF: as at 31st December, 1955.

Medical:

M. Hunter	M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.	Divisional Medical Officer
R.R. Stoakley	M.B., B.Ch.	Assistant County and
C. Harris	M.B., B.Ch.	School Medical Officers
G.D.G. Cameron	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.)
A.B. Morrison	M.B., Ch.B.	) Clinic Medical Officers
J.M. Imrie	M.B., Ch.B.	) Part time.

NURSING:(a) Divisional Superintendent Health Visitor

Miss F. Stevenson, S.R.N., S.R.C.N., C.M.B., Part 1, H.V. Cert.

(b) Health Visitors/School Nurses

Miss M. Birdsall, S.R.N., C.M.B., Part 1, H.V. Cert.
 Mrs. D. Crabtree, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
 Mrs. A.M. Dickinson, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Miss N. Easton, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
 Miss R.E. Fawcett, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
 Miss I. Fell, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
 Miss M. Smith, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
 Mrs. I.G. Roscow, S.R.N.
 Mrs. B. Roberts, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
 Miss M. Whaley, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
 Miss N. Williams, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

(c) Home Nurses

Mrs. V.M. Flynn, S.C.M., S.E.A.N.
 Mrs. H.C. Hill, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Mrs. I. Molyneux, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Mrs. M. Parkinson, S.R.N.
 Mrs. M. Pratt, S.R.N.

(d) Home Nurse/Midwives

Miss M. Brown, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Miss E.M. Butler, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Miss C. Herbert, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Miss A.M. Hunter, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Mrs. D. Inman, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Mrs. E.M. Lingard, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Miss P.M. Oversby, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Miss E.A. Smith, S.R.N., S.C.M.

(e) Home Nurse/Midwives/Health Visitors

Mrs. P.M.E. Bunnett, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Mrs. B.A. Priestley, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

(f) Midwives

Miss E. Barlow, S.C.M.

OTHER STAFFMental Health

Ø Mrs. J. Barber, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Social Worker).
 Ø Miss M.E. Marshall, M.A. (Home Teacher).

Speech Therapist

Ø Miss M Buckley, L.C.S.T.

Venereal Diseases Social Worker

Ø Mrs. Doige-Harrison.

(Ø Part time in Division 1.)

Home Help Staff

Full time: 5

Part time: 36

Other Domestic Staff

Part time: 4

Administrative and Clerical Staff

Senior Clerk 1

Clerical 9

The Division has again been fortunate in having a full complement of workers throughout the year, particularly when so many health authorities are understaffed. Work has been heavy at times, and the provision of relief for holidays, sickness, courses of instruction etc., is often complicated despite the existence of a wholetime relief nurse/midwife.

The work of the administrative and clerical staff increases year by year, and an addition to their numbers is now necessary.

This year we held our third annual staff dinner to which are invited all the family doctors, hospital matrons, almoners and many other people who are connected in one way or another with our work. Once more it proved an enjoyable function, and a valuable means of promoting co-operation by the presence of individuals who may rarely write, telephone to, or meet each other.

3. HEALTH CENTRES:

The provision of health centres, one of the important projects envisaged when the National Health Service came into operation in 1948, seems to grow more remote each year. A few experimental centres have given evidence of their great value, but development on any other scale is at present prohibited by financial stringency.

This Division has neither health centre nor purpose built clinic, and although the buildings matter far less than the people working in them, the inadequacy and inconvenience of our many rented premises has become very obvious since we acquired the former day nursery in Barnoldswick for clinic purposes. With a few minor adaptations these premises will be very suitable for our use, and for the Chest Physician who will shortly join us there. Other services may be provided at a later date, and there is some space for expansion into a health centre if this should become feasible.

4. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN:

(a) BIRTHS:

Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 203.

Return of births notified in the Divisional Area during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1955.

	Domiciliary		Institutional		Total
	Live	Still	Live	Still	
(a) Primary Notifications					
(i) Urban Districts	86	1	256	4	347
(ii) Rural Districts	60	-	218	5	283
(b) Add Inward Transfers	-	-	224	13	237
(c) Total Notifications received:	146	1	698	22	867
(d) Deduct Outward Transfers		-	61	1	62
(e) Total Adjusted Births	146	1	637	21	805
<u>Analysis of Institutional Births:</u>					
Born in (a) Hospitals			633	21	
(b) Maternity Homes			-	-	
(c) Nursing Homes			4	-	
Total:			637	21	

(b) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Name and Address of Ante-Natal Clinic (whether held at Child Welfare Centre or other premises).	Number of sessions now held per month			Number of Women in attendance		Total number of attendances made by women during the year		
	Combined with I.W.	Separate Sessions Doctors	Midwives only	Number of women who attended during year	No. of new cases included in Col.5.	Comb- ined with I.W.	Sep- arate Sessions Doctors	Mid- wives only
Barnoldswick The Clinic The Butts	-	4	4	110	83	-	427	91
Earby Old Grammar School	-	2	4	81	66	-	349	89
Glusburn Ebenezer Sunday School	-	2	-	21	14	-	130	-
Totals	-	8	8	212	163	-	906	180

(c) CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Name and Address of Centre	No. of Child Welfare Sessions now held per mth.	No. of children who first attended a Centre of this Local Authority during yr. and who at their first attendance were under 1 yr. of age.	No. of children who attended during yr. and who were born in			Total No. of children who attended during yr.	No. of attendances during yr. made by children who at date of attendance were:			Total attendances during yr.
			1955	1954	1953		Under 1 yr.	1 but under 2	2 but under 5	
Barnoldswick The Clinic The Butts	8	114	92	121	131	344	2271	394	344	3,009
Earby, Old Grammar School	6	58	53	60	63	176	1122	381	300	1,803
Gargrave Institute	2	13	13	26	53	92	296	173	251	720
Glusburn Ebenezer Sunday Schl.	4	51	43	52	34	129	998	189	154	1,341
Grassington Church House	2	18	18	20	34	72	255	129	205	589
Silsden Kirkgate Sunday Schl.	4	63	55	64	47	166	847	197	93	1,137
Skipton Millfields Hall	8	109	94	92	178	364	1755	639	595	2,989

(d) MOBILE CLINICS

Name and Address of Centre	No. of Child Welfare Sessions now held per mth.	No. of children who first attended a Centre of this Local Authority during yr. and who at their first attendance were under 1 year.	No. of children who attended during the year and were born in			Total number of children who attended during the year	No. of attendances during yr. made by children who at date of attendance were:			Total attendances during year.
			1955	1954	1953		Under 1 yr.	1 but under 2	2 but under 5	
Addingham	2	28	24	14	11	49	197	64	36	297
Bradley	2	14	12	9	15	36	151	76	46	273
Carleton	2	16	15	12	26	53	94	91	88	273
Cononley	2	20	18	10	22	50	220	50	68	338
Cowling	2	14	12	17	18	47	210	57	68	335
Ø Embsay	2	16	14	8	23	45	92	19	53	164

(Ø commenced 22nd June, 1955)

(e) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS:

Details of the clinics and attendance are given in the preceding table. At two clinics mothercraft and relaxation exercises are taught by the midwife and health visitors. These classes are well attended, particularly by mothers expecting their first babies, who welcome the instruction given and the opportunities for discussion.

(f) BIRTHS:

The total number of domiciliary confinements was 147 compared with 658 in hospital and maternity homes, giving a percentage of 76%.

During the year the booking arrangements for beds in the local maternity units were transferred to the Divisional Health Office with the aim of preventing overcrowding in one whilst the other might be half empty, and vice versa. This had been happening, and as both are small units it resulted in considerable inconvenience which is now avoided. This transfer has also permitted patients to express their choice of unit.

(g) CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS:

A premature infant is defined as one weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth, irrespective of the period of gestation. 52 premature infants were born in the Division during the year compared with 57 in the preceding year. Some of these babies were transferred to hospital for nursing care, but special equipment is available in the Division for use by the midwife when the babies remain at home.

(h) DENTAL CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS:

This has been provided at the County Council's dental clinic in Barnoldswick for patients in the West Craven area. In other parts of the Division local dental practitioners have continued to provide a service under the County Council's scheme.

(i) DAY NURSERIES:

There are now no day nurseries in the Division, the Barnoldswick Nursery being closed during the year by implementation of the County Council's revised policy. The Earby Day Nursery was closed in the preceding year.

(j) CHILDRENS HOMES:

The children at Airview House were transferred to more suitable accommodation in an adjacent Division during the year, but Burnside House remains open. Although administered by the Welfare Department, all children are examined on admission, discharge, and periodically during their stay by the staff of the Health Department.

(k) CARE OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD:

Although the illegitimate birth rate is now under five per cent., having fallen from nearly ten per cent. since 1945, grave personal and social difficulties still exist in many cases. A temporary solution is often achieved by admission to hostel or voluntary home for the confinement and a period thereafter. In such cases the County Council provides financial assistance. Adoption is sometimes a satisfactory solution, and there are always good homes and every care awaiting such babies.

In this area the Bradford Diocesan Moral Welfare Council plays a most worthy part in helping these unfortunate mothers and children, and in solving the problems of moral and social rehabilitation. We are greatly indebted to this organisation and its social workers for their assistance and guidance.

(l) CHILD WELFARE CENTRES:

Details of this service are given in Table (c). Their functions can be described as -

- (i) The promotion of healthy, mental and emotional development through consultation and advice.
- (ii) The prevention of respiratory disease.
- (iii) The prophylaxis of certain infectious diseases by immunisation.
- (iv) The prevention of accidents, which are still all too frequent in the home.
- (v) The detection of defects and early ascertainment of handicapped children.
- (vi) Attention to the medico-social needs of special groups such as prematures, illegitimate children, deprived and neglected children, and problem families.

In brief, the reduction of mortality, and the improvement in quality of the lives of the survivors by the patient education carried out by health visitors, in the home and the welfare centre. Whilst the family doctors have a responsibility for every child on their lists it is probable that, at present, only a minority will have the time or inclination to undertake regular medical supervision and sustained teaching of child care for more than a small proportion of their little patients. Furthermore, many mothers are disinclined to trouble their busy general practitioners, and prefer the ease of approach to the welfare centre where they can attend without formality for advice and reassurance.

In the past, insufficient attention has been given to children beyond the age of infancy, and their mothers are now being encouraged to obtain regular medical supervision by a system of "birthday" examinations, including in most cases a tuberculin test. If treatment is needed it is arranged by, or in association with, the family doctor; although the purpose of regular supervision is to obviate the need for treatment arising.

Attendances at our centres continue at a very satisfactory level, and the mobile clinic has again operated in the Division on two days each fortnight. During the year, the village of Embsay was included in its itinerary.

Members of the Voluntary Committees continue to provide assistance at the static centres, and we are indebted to these ladies for their support.

5. MIDWIFERY SERVICES:

As this Division has a superfluity of hospital maternity beds, calls on the domiciliary midwives are not heavy. One wholetime midwife is employed, and one home nurse/midwife spends most of her time on midwifery. In addition eight home nurse/midwives undertake a number of cases each year. This has been found by experience to be the most suitable arrangement in the Craven District. These members of the staff are trained to give gas and air analgesia in childbirth and each possesses the apparatus. They also give pethidine when indicated, and in the majority of normal cases they conduct the confinements without the presence of a doctor.

STATISTICSNumber of confinements in the Division area
attended by midwives:

	Institu- tional total number of cases	Domiciliary Cases			
		Dr. not booked		Dr. booked	
		Doctor present at time of deliv- ery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery	Doctor present at time of del- ivery (either booked Doctor or another	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child
Midwives employed by the Authority		6	35	106	147
Midwives employed by volunt- ary organ- isations					
Midwives employed by Hosp- ital Management Committees	483				
Midwives in Private Practice:					
(a) Nursing Homes					
(b) Others					

6. HOME NURSING:

Names of the home nursing staff have been given in Section 2. They are located in various parts of the Division according to population, availability of hospitals, natural boundaries, and the arrangements for off duty relief, but in only one instance is the homenurse/midwife working in two Divisions.

That is in Upper Wharfedale, where the nurse also undertakes duties in Division 2 in the parishes of the Skirfare valley.

Mobility is obviously of the greatest importance if this service is to be sustained and the standard of care continued. Two nurses can undertake their duties on foot, but the rest have either their own cars or cars provided by the County Council.

It is convenient to divide the work of the home nurses into three categories. Firstly, minor ailments and injections, and the latter continue to increase. Secondly, post operative and other cases discharged from hospital which show little change. Thirdly, nursing of the chronic sick and dying which occupy a large part of their day, and is an increasing commitment. This is not entirely due to the fact that there are more old people in the community nowadays, nor because there are fewer children able and willing to look after their aged relatives. There are other factors such as the discovery of antibiotics which may cure the once fatal pneumonia for the patient to die, perhaps years later, of cancer or cardio-vascular degeneration after prolonged illness; and the difficulty of securing admission to both hospital and Part III Accommodation (i.e. Homes for the Aged). The old Poor Law Institution or Workhouse has gone, but the chronic sick hospital which has taken over its beds has not taken over all its responsibilities. Rehabilitation therein and turnover of beds have their place, but the fact remains that they are of no importance to an increasing number of old, ailing or dying people who require a hospital bed, often most urgently, and cannot get one. It is such cases which demand the frequent attentions of the home nurses for professional care and many other needs.

A summary of the work undertaken is as follows:-

(i) Number of visits paid by home nurses during the year:	35,034
(ii) Number of cases attended by home nurses (excluding midwifery and maternity cases):	2,176

7. HEALTH VISITING:

Eleven health visitors have been employed during the year. Their duties also include school nursing, visits to those suffering from tuberculosis, and conduct of the child welfare clinics which operate in most of their districts.

As trained nurses and midwives they have authority in the eyes of the parents and patients, and with access to their homes without being summoned they come to know their families intimately and to be welcomed as advisers and friends. Furthermore, being trained and experienced in the difficult art of teaching and persuading they occupy a unique position in the fields of social medicine and community health.

Traditionally, the home nurse and midwife both work with the family doctor. There is every reason why the health visitor should achieve a similar relationship, and a closer liaison is being encouraged. During the year the health visitors were therefore provided with telephones to eliminate the element of inaccessibility which previously existed. The Superintendent Health Visitor has additional duties and now submits reports on all patients recommended for admission to hospitals for the longterm sick, as well as maintaining a close association with the hospital almoner and consultant physician. Her duties in respect of the Home Help Service have become increasingly onerous, for there is no establishment for an organiser in this Division, the scattered nature of which makes a car essential and a nursing qualification most desirable.

STATISTICS:

Although it is necessary to give some figures, they are but a bare record and an inadequate comment on the work done. Briefly, the number of visits paid by health visitors during the year, in addition to their attendances at clinics and welfare centres, was as follows:-

	<u>First Visits</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
(i) Expectant Mothers	133	424
(ii) Children under 1 year	735	5,526
(iii) Children between 1 and 5 years	-	8,422
(iv) In respect of tuberculosis	-	965
(v) Other cases	-	<u>2,013</u>
	<u>868</u>	<u>17,350</u>

8. HOME HELP SERVICE:

This service has become so well known in the past few years that it no longer needs any description. There is an ever increasing demand on the service, and the organising of each week's work along with the changes necessitated by urgent calls is now a major administrative task.

Supervision in a large district is also difficult, and where no qualifications are required and no training is possible reliance has to be placed largely on the integrity of those employed. Recruitment of suitable women against the competitive claims of industry is another constant difficulty, and the hours allocated to cases have often to be less than their needs seem to demand. This is particularly so in the rural parts of the Division where home helps are difficult, often impossible to obtain; and travelling facilities are inadequate. Nevertheless, a great deal of valuable work has been done particularly in enabling aged people to continue to live in their own homes, thus reducing the demands for accommodation in hospitals and homes for the aged, all of which have waiting lists. Much more could be done if the staff were available, and we are obviously far from organising that logical extension of the Home Help Service, a "sitter-up service" for night duty, which has been possible in some large towns. In conclusion a tribute is due to the existing staff who have undertaken their heavy and sometimes disagreeable duties with tact and cheerful efficiency, in some cases for several years now.

STATISTICS:

Cases provided with home helps during the year came within the following classifications:-

	<u>Number of</u> <u>cases</u>	<u>Hours</u> <u>employed</u>
(i) Maternity (including expectant mothers).	80	6,491
(ii) Tuberculosis	1	105
(iii) Chronic Sick, Aged, Infirm	261	44,339
(iv) Others	9	1,188

9. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE:

The functions of the Local Health Authority under existing legislation are as follows:-

- (a) The appointment of duly authorised officers to take initial proceedings for removal to hospital of persons who are to be dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

- (b) The duty under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-18 of ascertaining what persons in the area are defectives; providing suitable supervision for them, guardianship, or institutional care; and making arrangements for the provision of suitable training or occupation for defectives not in institutions.
- (c) The duty to make arrangements for the care and after care of persons suffering from mental illness or defectiveness, so far as provision is not otherwise made.

Under the terms of paragraph (a) the duly authorised officer has dealt with the following cases during the year:-

(1) Number of cases certified under Section 16 of the Lunacy Act, 1890...	17
(2) Number of cases dealt with under Section 20...	Nil
(3) Number of cases dealt with under Section 21...	Nil
(4) Number of cases in which authorised officers have assisted in obtaining admission under Section 1 of the Mental Treatment Act ...	Nil
(5) Cases dealt with under Section 5 of the Mental Treatment Act ...	Nil
(6) Any other cases referred to the authorised officer for action, but where it was not found necessary to proceed under the Lunacy or Mental Treatment Acts ...	4

These figures are not large, but it should be appreciated that the innate fear of mental illness and mental hospitals is growing less and an increasing number of patients now enter the mental hospitals as voluntary patients. Probably over two thirds of all admissions thereto will be discharged within twelve months of admission, a fact which is insufficiently appreciated. Although it must be admitted that others may go in with schizophrenia in their "twenties" and stay there for the rest of their lives. It is these long staying patients, who cannot be discharged, which create the difficulties and overcrowding which still exist.

Increasing attention is now being paid to the prevention of mental illness, it having been recognised that the psychoneuroses such as hysteria, sex perversions, anxiety states, obsessions, depression and many behaviour disorders are traceable in their origin to abnormal conditions in the early years of life. If such conditions can be detected, and when detected dealt with, then the future is more hopeful for at least a proportion of the community. In this connection, the health visitors, child welfare and child guidance clinics have an increasingly important part to play.

Whilst the outlook for mental illness is more hopeful, that for the mental defectives must remain obscure until we know more about the reasons why children are born so gravely handicapped. As yet we know very little. In many cases the defectiveness is recognised in the early months or years. In others it becomes apparent by the childrens' inability to benefit from education at an ordinary school or special school. In a few cases elderly defectives are notified when through ill health or old age, relatives are unable to continue to care for them.

During the year 1955, 6 mental defectives were ascertained and notified to the Authority. 4 of whom were under sixteen. At the end of the year there were 61 defectives resident in the Division, of whom 13 were under sixteen. 48 had been placed under Statutory Supervision, 13 were under Voluntary Supervision, and 1 was on licence from an institution. In addition, 64 defectives whose home addresses are in the Division were receiving institutional care elsewhere.

The Mental Health Social Worker visits defectives in Divisions 1 and 2 who are looked after by parents or relatives, and who may be working under supervision in certain occupations. Her advice and assistance are often required to deal with difficulties which arise. She also submits reports to mental hospitals in respect of applications for licence, holiday leave etc.

Mental defectives who can benefit by occupational therapy and training receive this from a Home Teacher at the Group Training Centre in Skipton on three days each week. On the other days the teacher visits the homes of those who cannot travel.

There are 6 children on the register of the centre, and they are taught (within their limitations), colours, numbers, raffia work, simple money values, clay modelling, painting, drawing, knitting and embroidery. They learn to sing and play together, and in general obtain training and companionship which they would otherwise miss. Equally important, their parents are relieved of the constant strain of caring for them for a proportion of each week. A dinner is provided through the School Meals Service, and travel warrants for the defectives and their escorts.

10. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION:

Since 1940 eleven and a half million children have been immunised against diphtheria and the incidence has fallen from a yearly average of 58,000 cases with 2,800 deaths in the years 1930-39, to 167 cases with 9 deaths in 1954. These are remarkable facts, evidence of the vast amount of work done by doctors in the public health service and general practice, but they must not be taken to imply that this work is finished. A generation of parents is growing up that does not know, and, therefore, does not fear this disease. To them, poliomyelitis, whooping cough and measles have become more important, and this is understandable. They do not appreciate that diphtheria could return in its old killing epidemic form, and may well do so unless the immunisation rate (both national and local) is increased. It is too low, and it is indeed a sad comment that a disease which could be eliminated still exists because all parents of young children are not convinced that they have a real responsibility for making use of the free immunisation service.

The position in regard to vaccination for the protection of children against smallpox is also unsatisfactory, despite recent outbreaks which have shown how easily this disease can be introduced into Britain through developments in travel by air. The aim should be to vaccinate every healthy baby, facilities for which are provided by every family doctor and welfare clinic, again free of charge. At present less than one third are being vaccinated.

Immunisation against whooping cough can be provided by three injections at monthly intervals starting about the fourth month of life. This gives a high degree of immunity even it falls short of complete protection. Whooping cough is a disease which is often distressing, can leave permanent lung damage, and can be fatal. No baby should be subjected to these risks for the sake of three small injections, but many are still permitted to do so.

During the year much publicity has been given to immunisation against poliomyelitis. Preliminary reports from the U.S.A. show that the results obtained by using the Salk vaccine are encouraging. Favourable reports are also available from Canada and Denmark where large numbers of children between the ages of 5 and 12 years have been vaccinated. Two vaccines are now being produced in this country and although their use has been suspended since adverse reports were received on vaccine manufactured by the Cutter laboratories in America, it is hoped that before long we shall have a safe and effective vaccine available. (Note - Since this report was written the Ministry of Health has announced that limited supplies of vaccine will be available in 1956).

B.C.G. vaccination for protection against tuberculosis was referred to earlier in this report in Section C. Further reference will be found under the "School Health Service".

STATISTICS:

(a) Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during period:-

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1 Year	1 Year	2 to 4 Years	5 to 14 Years	15 yrs. or over	Total
Number vaccinated	301	19	8	5	44	377
Number Re-vaccinated	-	-	-	6	76	82

(b) Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria during the year:

Age at date of final injection

<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>5 to 14</u>	<u>Total</u>
700	153	853

(c) Number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection (i.e. subsequent to complete full course) during the year ... 753.

11. HEALTH EDUCATION:

A concern for health rather than ill health is a seemingly difficult thing for a health service to achieve and most people still believe that the health of the country depends largely upon the adequacy of the medical services and especially the hospitals. This is quite erroneous, for the curative services have contributed relatively little to the falling mortality and morbidity of the last hundred years, which have been due largely to improved living conditions - i.e. housing, water, food and sanitation.

The point has now been reached when more and better health services will not in themselves produce any improvement in the health of the people. What is required is more and more health education to teach people the way to better health with emphasis on the responsibility of the individual. Local health authorities and local authorities have special powers in this field but few have a staff of sufficient size to utilise them, or employ officers specially appointed for the task. For the present, the health visitors, nurses, midwives, sanitary inspectors, school teachers, doctors and others do what they can in their own spheres of activity. But this enormous problem of healthy living is only receiving a fraction of the attention it needs if the nation's bill for ill health and preventable disease is to be reduced.

12. CHILDREN NEGLECTED OR ILL TREATED:

A recent publication on the prevention of cruelty to children states that there has been a very substantial improvement in three main directions: a striking fall in the number of prosecutions for neglect, and cruelty; a big reduction in the drunkenness that used to be a heavy contributor to these things; and a reduction in the incidence of malnutrition, undoubtedly due in part to school milk and meals. But if the definition is accepted that "any child who is frequently unhappy is the victim of cruelty", then there is obviously a great deal left to do. Improvidence, absence of moral values, irresponsible fathers, drink, moral dangers, mental deficiency amongst parents or children (or both), haphazard marriages, working mothers, fathers who contribute an inadequate proportion of their earnings to the upkeep of the home - all these still exist.

They are discussed at the conferences which the Divisional Medical Officer arranges periodically to co-ordinate the activities of those who have an interest in the welfare, education, and housing of the families exhibiting these characteristics.

Fortunately they are not numerous in this Division, but their rehabilitation is difficult without the assistance of a special social worker or Family Service Unit to work in their homes, although the services of the local inspector or the N.S.P.C.C. are available and appreciated.

13. CARE AND AFTER CARE:

The home nurses have supplied sick room requisites - i.e. air-rings, rubber sheets, bed pans and bed rests from their stocks. And larger items in the form of wheel chairs, spinal carriages and special beds have again been supplied through the Divisional Health Office. Recuperative Home Treatment was arranged for 11 individuals on their doctor's recommendation, and several children were admitted to convalescent homes.

The supply of extra milk to 48 cases of tuberculosis was arranged on the advice of the Chest Physician, and home helps and home nurses have been supplied at the request of almoners following the discharge of patients from hospital.

Many old people have received a good deal of attention, from the home nurses intermittently, and from the home helps. Assistance from the latter for perhaps only a few hours each week has often been sufficient for them to keep their homes in order and maintain that feeling of independence which is so important to them.

Reference has been made in previous reports to our ageing population and the increasing demands which it is making on the Welfare State. These must be met. They are not solely measured in terms of money, and much excellent work is being done by voluntary organisations in providing clubs, meals-on-wheels, chiropody, visitation, boarding out arrangements, and dwellings suitably converted and located. In one county the Woman's Institutes have taken a particular interest in the welfare of old people in rural districts and have recruited Institute members in each village to act as old people's "friend". And the National Assistance Board officers visit periodically over a million people who are receiving supplementary retirement pensions. Despite all this good work there are many old people who are frail, lonely and in poor physical state for one reason or another. For such, the development of a visiting service capable of visiting about once a week every old person living alone and who might be in need of help is a praiseworthy objective.

14. AMBULANCE SERVICE:

There has been no alteration in the ambulance arrangements during the year. They are as follows:- the Barnoldswick depot serves West Craven; the Keighley depot serves Silsden and adjacent parishes in South Craven; Addingham and Beamsley are dealt with by the Guiseley depot. The rest of the Division is catered for by the Skipton depot with the exception of Upper Wharfedale, which is dealt with by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade operating under agency arrangements from Grassington.

STATISTICS:

1955

Mileage covered:	149,968
Patients carried:	16,915

15. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE:

The basic programme of this service consists of the examination of every school child in the Division on three occasions during his or her school life, along with the more frequent examination of the handicapped pupils and special cases. For some time the Ministry of Education has been advocating more frequent routine examinations, but not until this year has sufficient staff been available to do this. However, a start has now been made on the routine examination of the 7 to 8 year olds. The routine testing of colour vision was also started, using Ishihara's test. The colour blind woman is comparatively rare, but about 8 per cent of the male population have some defect of colour vision, most often a difficulty in distinguishing differences between red, green and yellow which are obvious to normal people. Their difficulty is not in seeing these colours but in telling which is which. Such persons may experience disappointment if their defect is not discovered before they choose a career, and they may be incompetent or even dangerous in certain occupations.

B.C.G. vaccination has again been offered to all children in the thirteen year old group, the purpose of which is to provide children with an artificial immunity who are shown to be susceptible to tuberculosis on skin testing. The tuberculin testing of school entrants has been continued as a means of finding hitherto undetected cases of tuberculosis amongst their contacts. In children of that age contacts are rarely numerous, and it is considered worth while arranging for their examination and Xray when a positive reactor has been found by tuberculin jelly test.

The aim of both these procedures is to help reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in the community.

Information has been provided for the guidance of the Youth Employment Officer as heretofore.

TABLE 1

(a) Periodic Medical Inspections:

Number of inspections in the prescribed groups:-

Entrants	794
7 to 8 year group	415
Last year primary	726
First year secondary	137
Last year secondary	<u>375</u>
Total	<u><u>2,447</u></u>

(b) Other Inspections:

Number of special inspections	1,321
Number of re-inspections	<u>39</u>
Total	<u><u>1,360</u></u>

(c) Pupils found to require treatment:

Group	Defective Vision (excl. squint)	For any of other conditions recorded in Table 11.	Total Individual pupils
Entrants	23	117	124
7 to 8 year group	26	30	52
Last year primary	52	89	134
First year secondary	11	25	32
Last year secondary	45	44	80
Total	157	305	422

(d) CLASSIFICATION OF ALL PUPILS GIVEN A ROUTINE EXAMINATION

Age Groups	Number of pupils inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of Col.2.	No.	% of Col.2.	No.	% of Col.2.
Entrants	794	553	69.65%	224	28.21%	17	2.14%
7 to 8 year group	415	271	65.3 %	139	33.5 %	5	1.2 %
Last year primary	726	509	70.1 %	205	28.2 %	12	1.7 %
First year secondary	137	91	66.4 %	43	31.4 %	3	2.2 %
Last year secondary	375	279	74.4 %	87	23.2 %	9	2.4 %
Total	2,447	1,703	69.6 %	698	28.5 %	46	1.9 %

TABLE 11

(e) RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.55

All defects noted at medical inspection as requiring treatment are included in this return, whether or not this treatment was begun before the date of the inspection.

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections No. of Defects		Special Inspections No. of defects	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring observation but not treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring observation but not treatment
Skin	33	22	3	20
Eyes: (a) Vision	157	158	27	72
(b) Squint	16	23	3	15
(c) Other	10	1	3	4
Ears: (a) Hearing	7	7	2	4
(b) Otitis Media	5	13	-	7
(c) Other	5	11	1	6
Nose or Throat	45	154	19	112
Speech	21	11	14	13
Cervical Glands	5	24	-	10
Heart & Circulation	2	37	1	67
Lungs	7	85	5	93
Developmental:				
(a) Hernia	2	5	1	3
(b) Other	7	70	4	41
Orthopaedic:				
(a) Posture	17	62	2	29
(b) Flat Feet	68	35	16	51
(c) Other	13	30	2	33
Nervous System:				
(a) Epilepsy	-	7	1	4
(b) Other	-	4	-	4
Psychological:				
(a) Development	-	7	-	32
(b) Stability	3	35	1	23
Other	19	14	2	22

(f) B.C.G. VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN:

Number offered B.C.G. vaccination	754
Number accepting B.C.G.	432
Number Mantoux negative	297
Number given B.C.G.	297

(g) CLINIC ARRANGEMENTS:

School clinics are held in Skipton, Silsden and Barnoldswick where children requiring observation can be seen regularly and given appropriate advice and treatment. Orthopaedic, and Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics are held at Skipton Hospital by consultants of the Regional Hospital Board. The Board also provides an ophthalmologist for the examination of children with defects of vision and the prescription of spectacles. His clinics are held in Skipton and Barnoldswick, as are the speech therapy clinics. Finally, a child guidance clinic for children showing behaviour problems and maladjustment is held in Skipton, the conduct of which is now in the hands of a consultant psychiatrist, Dr. Burbury.

(h) HANDICAPPED PUPILS:

Although the emphasis today is on drawing as little difference as possible between the handicapped child and the normal child, there are pupils who, owing to some mental or physical disability, require special educational treatment. Between 1945 and 1954, 256 new special schools with 18,000 new places have been established in the country, but there are still considerable waiting lists. The children in this Division requiring special education are as follows:-

Blind	...	...	...	...	3
Partially Sighted	...	...	...	...	3
Deaf	...	...	...	...	3
Partially Deaf	...	...	...	...	1
Maladjusted	...	...	...	...	3
Delicate	...	...	...	...	10
Physically handicapped	...	...	...	...	18
Educationally subnormal	...	...	...	...	27
Total					<u>68</u>

Of these 68 children, some are in ordinary schools, some in hospital schools, and a few are being taught at home. Those attending special residential schools are:-

Schools for the Blind	2
Schools for the Partially Sighted	2
Schools for the Deaf	3
Schools for the Partially Deaf	1
Schools for the Maladjusted... ..	2
Schools for the Delicate	4
Schools for Physically Handicapped	2
Schools for Educationally Subnormal	7

There is a residential special school within the Division at Netherside Hall, near Grassington, which provides accommodation for 40 senior boys. Many of them are sufferers from asthma and chest diseases; others from a variety of conditions for which residence at an open-air school has been prescribed. Supervision is provided by the Divisional Medical Officer and his staff.

(i) PUPILS UNDER OBSERVATION:

In addition to the pupils classified as handicapped under the Education Act, 1944, 54 children with defects of a less serious or temporary character were under special observation by the medical officer and school nurses at the end of the year.

(j) EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN:

The County Council has byelaws regulating the employment of children of compulsory school age, which require the children to be examined by a School Medical Officer within two weeks of the date employment begins. During the year 36 children were examined to ensure that employment would not be prejudicial to health.

(k) CLEANLINESS:

Examination of children's heads for infestation with vermin is undertaken by the school nurses. During the year 19,886 examinations were made and 149 children found to require treatment. In many cases this is a chance infestation which does not recur, but where there is evidence of lack of care or neglect, treatment is undertaken in co-operation with the parents and teachers.

(1) DENTAL SERVICE:

The following statistics have been provided by Mr. O.A. Long, Senior Dental Officer. For the first half of the year treatment was on a reduced scale in consequence of Mr. Ellwood's absence in America on studyleave.

Number of children inspected	2,442
Number of children found to require treatment	1,986
Number of children offered treatment	1,699
Number of children treated	1,359
Number of attendances	2,498
Number of extractions:	
(a) temporary	1,266
(b) permanent	255
Number of general anaesthetics	19
Number of fillings:	
(a) temporary	454
(b) permanent	1,417
Number of other treatments:	
(a) temporary	189
(b) permanent	899

16. WELFARE FOODS SCHEME:

The distribution of National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil, and Vitamin A and D Tablets was transferred from the Ministry of Food in June, 1954, and distribution centres are established in Skipton, Silsden, Steeton, Crosshills, Earby, Barnoldswick, Gargrave and Grassington. In addition, cod liver oil and orange juice are dispensed by voluntary agencies in Appletrewick, Linton, Addingham, Sutton, Farnhill, Cowling, West Marton, Lothersdale and Kettlewell. During the year the following quantities were distributed:-

National Dried Milk	21,120 tins
Orange Juice	38,267 bottles
Cod Liver Oil	6,972 bottles
Vitamin Tablets	2,631 packets

In some parts of the country there has been a downward trend in the distribution of Welfare Foods, believed to be due to the continuing improvement in the general diet and standard of living, and the fact that coupons for liquid and national dried milk are now interchangeable. In this Division there has been a fall in dried milk issues but not of the other commodities.

17. MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS:

Particulars of medical examinations carried out by the Divisional Medical Staff during the year:-

Entry to County Superannuation Scheme	36
Teachers and entrants to Training Colleges	37
Fitness for work	7

In addition certain examinations were carried out under the Children Act, 1948, and the Mental Deficiency Acts.

